

No on Knight steps up the fight
Judy Shepard appears at San Francisco benefit,
plus a calendar of Northern California events.
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This Green lesbian
wants your vote for the
Oakland City Council.
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End bozophobia
Cirque du Soleil makes
clowns funny again.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Alaska Flight 261 had gay victims

by Cynthia Laird

Two gay men from San Francisco were among the victims of the ill-fated Alaska Airlines Flight 261 that crashed in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Ventura County Monday, January 31.

Flight 261 was headed to San Francisco International Airport from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, when it went down Monday afternoon after the pilot reported mechanical problems with the stabilizer trim. No survivors have been found; Flight 261 carried 83 passengers and five crew members.

Jay D'Amapo, manager at Travel Trends, a Castro travel agency, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that one of his agents, Will Bryant, 46, was aboard the plane. Bryant was traveling with his close friend, James (Jay) Luque, 40. Additionally, D'Amapo said that a woman, Toni Choate, who was a client of the agency, was on the flight with her 17-year-old daughter, Jacqueline.

"She was a nice lady and very excited about the trip with her daughter," D'Amapo said of Choate.

Bryant had worked at Travel Trends for over a year, D'Amapo added.

"We're kind of hurting right now," D'Amapo told the *B.A.R.*

The Alaska Airlines afternoon flight from Puerto Vallarta was a well-known flight among many gay and lesbian city residents who frequently make the sunny beaches of Puerto Vallarta their regular getaway spot. Of the 88 passengers and crew members, about 32 were to get off the plane in San Francisco, according to the airline. The flight then was to continue to Seattle.

In the past dozen years, Puerto Vallarta has become so popular with

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Wellness Center wants \$500,000 to go nonprofit

by Terry Beswick

The Wellness Center, a privately owned medical clinic near the heart of San Francisco's Castro District officially closed its doors on Monday, January 31.

But the underlying causes of the seemingly sudden decision by the clinic's owner, Dr. Jon Kaiser, to shut the clinic down are now being brought into question by some of the 1,500 patients displaced by the closure, as well as doctors and other clinic employees who have been unceremoniously dumped.

Kaiser sparked a firestorm of publicity last week when he claimed he was being forced to close the clinic by a private insurance company under contract with the federal government. Kaiser is accused of over-billing the federal Medicare trust fund to the tune of \$126,932 for patient care services not covered under Medicare guidelines. Although he has since acknowledged that he is in the midst of ongoing negotiations with Medicare over the terms and conditions of repayment, Kaiser announced that because ongoing reimbursements from Medicare were being suspended effective January 31, and because payment of the full amount was being demanded prior to the resolution of an appeal, he was forced to immediately shut the clinic down.

Kaiser, who purchased the Wellness Center business two years ago, wrote his patients on January 19 of his decision to close the center. At about the same time, Kaiser reportedly informed three physicians, a nurse practitioner, a physician's assistant, and two



Dr. Jon Kaiser spoke to supporters at MCC-SF last week about the Wellness Center closing.

administrative staff that they would be laid off, effective with the closure at the end of the month.

However, Elizabeth C. Abbott, the San Francisco-based regional administrator of the federal Health Care Financing Administration, recently stated that Kaiser was first notified by a HCFA contractor of his clinic's impending financial woes in March 1999, and that "a final notification to [Kaiser] was issued December 8."

If Kaiser truly believed the survival of his

clinic was threatened by the allegations, he apparently withheld the information for months – not only from the center's patients, but from its staff.

Indeed, in a letter published by the *San Francisco Examiner* on January 31 – the center's last day of operation – Abbott stated that the National Heritage Insurance Company, a private insurance firm under contract with HCFA to oversee Medicare billing in Northern California, "has been working

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Gray Davis finally comes out against Prop. 22

by Terry Beswick

Until last Friday, January 28, it was only when reporters had Governor Gray Davis on the air and put him on the spot that the centrist politician publicly discussed his thinking on the right-wing Knight initiative – and even then, his comments were directed not to the substance of the proposition itself – but simply to the fact that it was on the ballot.

On a Southern California radio show last month, for example, the governor ventured that the "Limit on Marriages" ballot measure, which would outlaw recognition in California of same-sex marriages in the event they are legalized in another state, "creates a hostile and divisive climate ... it doesn't educate one child, it doesn't create one new job, it doesn't move California forward one step."

Before Davis finally announced his official opposition to the Knight initiative/Proposition 22 in a one-paragraph boilerplate statement last Friday, January 28 – just over five weeks before the state's accelerated March 7 presidential primary and long after virtually all key political leaders in the state had taken a stand – his aides explained the

delay by saying that their boss had made an executive decision not to take an official position on Proposition 22 – or on any of the 15 propositions placed on the ballot by voter signature drives – until sometime in January, after the release of his annual state budget proposal. Reporters were encouraged to "read between the lines" to better ascertain the sentiments of the state's chief executive.

Even with Friday's statement, Davis isn't exactly going out on a limb. "It is an unnecessary distraction because current California law already clearly and unequivocally limits marriage to a man and a woman. In addition, the placement of this kind of emotionally charged issue on the ballot serves mainly to stir up prejudices and hostility – sometimes with tragic consequences. As governor, I will do everything in my power to honor



California Governor Gray Davis

the dignity, humanity, and privacy of every Californian, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation," Davis stated.

It is common knowledge among public relations consultants that quietly faxing a written statement to the press on a Friday – with no news conference to provide even one sound bite for the evening news – keeps the "news" below the public's radar, as it assures light coverage in the Saturday papers, which are notorious for their low readership.

And as chairman of Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign committee in California, Davis can certainly look to Gore for political cover as the hot-button issue heats up in the coming weeks. Both Gore and his contender for the Democratic nomination, former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley,

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Power to the youth



Alana Flores, a plaintiff in a South Bay gay discrimination lawsuit against a school district, was the featured speaker at the Queer Youth Lobby Day last Saturday, January 29, at Mission High School in San Francisco. The daylong session featured youth speakers on a variety of topics, including Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl's bill protecting LGBT students from harassment in public schools and colleges.

Berkeley ponders equal benefits, police liaison

by Katie Szymanski

Berkeley's plans to create an equal benefits ordinance and hire a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender police liaison moved one step closer to reality last Tuesday, January 25, when the City Council voted to immediately start working on both projects.

Or maybe the projects moved further from becoming reality. It depends on your perspective.

According to openly gay City Councilmember Kriss Worthington, the city manager now says that Berkeley has no available city staff to study the equal benefits ordinance, which is the first step in creating such a law. The city, therefore, would put a consultant position in the budget to be passed by the council, an item that would probably cost around \$25,000 and would be competing with other budget items. Worthington thinks that route could mean more than a year for the ordinance to become policy, and also believes that the city does have someone on staff capable of researching and putting together an ordinance. The council will decide on February 22 whether to go the city's route and turn the ordinance into a long process, or to demand immediate priority for the civil rights issue.

"If we hire an outside consultant, who knows if it will all get done this year," Worthington told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Just advertising for the position could take six to eight weeks, whereas we have the expertise on staff now, and don't want to contract out to non-union labor if it is not necessary. There are many people we could hire from within to do this, and it's not like they'd have to start from scratch; ordinances like this have not only been written by other cities, but legislated."

Worthington will spend the next few weeks speaking to union representatives about the ramifications of hiring an outside person to do the job. His hope is that he can hurry along the process by convincing the council to prioritize the issue and the city to find someone from within to begin working on the ordinance.

As for the police liaison, the last council meeting on January 18 turned into a debate over a non-issue, the result of miscommunication. Now that everything has been ironed out — with councilmembers agreeing that the liaison should come from within the police department — the matter will go to the police commission for review, then go back to the council for final adjustments.

"We're actively moving forward on several different levels,"

Worthington said.

The police department has already agreed to advertise its positions to the queer community, and on February 8, the City Council will take up the recommendation that officers receive LGBT sensitivity training, according to police Commissioner Claire Zellman, chair of the commission's transgender task force. But the liaison position itself may be a little more difficult to pass.

"The liaison is a half-time position, and the city manager has estimated its cost at \$100,000, which is absurd," said Zellman. "So that may cause some delays."

"Other jurisdictions have already implemented this; in Oakland it was the result of an incident between police and a transgender person. The hope in Berkeley is that we can avoid someone being victimized before we take steps," Zellman said.

In the meantime, it helps to have public support coming into councilmembers, to ensure they take the issues seriously. People can fax their support for Berkeley's equal benefits ordinance and/or police department liaison to a council-wide fax machine at (510) 644-4822, or e-mail their support to worthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us, and the councilmember will forward the messages to his colleagues. ▼

SF Sheriff's Dept. seeks gay men, lesbians

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey urges Bay Area gay men and lesbians to apply for careers as deputy sheriffs, as the Sheriff's Department recruiting drive ends next week.

"Our current recruitment drive ends February 11, and we are asking the community's help in getting the word out to as many qualified candidates as possible," Hennessey said.

A POST examination for deputy sheriff will be given to qualified applicants on March 26, so it

is imperative that candidates submit their applications by the Friday, February 11 deadline, officials said.

All interested gay and lesbian candidates are urged to come in person to the Sheriff's Department recruitment desk, in room 456 at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place between now and next Friday. Interested people can also call the recruitment hotline at (415) 554-7000.

Hennessey said that no prior law enforcement experience is necessary; all training is provided by the department. The starting annual salary is \$36,775, with a range between \$43,900 to \$53,322

upon completion of probation. The department offers generous health and retirement benefits, as well as excellent promotional opportunities.

In San Francisco, the Sheriff's Department is responsible for staffing the jails and maintaining security in courtrooms and at City Hall.

"The doors are wide open for gay men and lesbians seeking careers in the San Francisco Sheriff's Department," Hennessey said. "Act now if you're at least 20 years old, a high school or GED graduate and have one year of college or work experience." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bodfish investigator may have gotten rare disease from Orinda home

by Ed Walsh

The investigation into the mysterious murder of Emmon Bodfish has taken another bizarre turn. The *Bay Area Reporter* has learned one of the detectives who investigated the case may have contracted a severe and life-threatening form of a rare disease in Bodfish's home.

Orinda police Sergeant Chris Wenzel told the *B.A.R.* "it appears" Detective Tom Larocque, 37, contracted "Q fever" as a result of his work in Bodfish's Orinda home. Bodfish's estate executor, Garrett Riegg, said the Orinda home will be tested Monday, February 7 to confirm that suspicion.

Sirlura Taylor of the Contra Costa County Health Department confirmed her agency has quarantined an unoccupied residence in Orinda as a result of an investigation into a case of Q fever. Citing confidentiality concerns, Taylor said she could not release the address of the home.

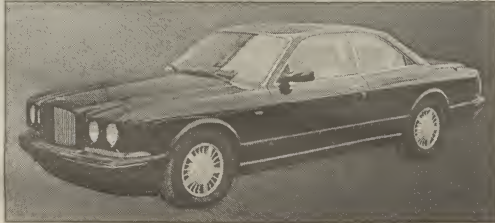
Wenzel said police have been told by experts on Q fever the incubation course of the disease matches the time in which Larocque was in Bodfish's home. Larocque first noticed the flu-like symptoms of the disease last November. After feeling sick for a week and a half, colleagues urged him go to the hospital. He was hospitalized for 12 days and developed hepatitis in the course of the infection. Wenzel said Larocque wasn't able to return to work until after the New Year's weekend.

"He was type of guy who was never sick," said Wenzel of Larocque. "He used to play semi-pro football and he stayed in great shape, working out five days a week."

"I remember going to see him in the hospital. He had lost 20 pounds and was running a 105-degree temperature," Wenzel added the disease is so rare that it took doctors more than a week before they were able to make the diagnosis.

Q fever is caused by the *Coxiella burnetii* bacteria found in infected animals. It's capable of being transmitted from animals to people primarily through dust contaminated from the tissue or body fluids of animals infected with the bacteria.

"Generally we see it in people who do a lot of work with animals," said Dr. Robert Norris of Stanford Medical Center who re-



Emmon Bodfish's classic Bentley will be auctioned off this weekend.

cently edited a research paper on Q fever. Norris told the *B.A.R.* Q fever is so rare that he's never heard of a previous case in the Bay Area.

Most cases of the disease are much less severe than Larocque's. Experts said most people who contract Q fever recover without treatment but some severe cases can be life-threatening.

Wenzel said Larocque was one of 20 investigators who were in the Orinda home but he was the only one who got sick. Wenzel suspects Larocque may have come down with the disease because he did a lot of work on the floor of the home and went through a lot of dusty old papers in the home that may have harbored the contaminants.

Estate executor Riegg, who also has been in the Orinda home more than 20 times since the June 1999 homicide, has not noticed any symptoms of the disease. He speculated that rodent fecal matter may have contaminated some of the crawl spaces where Larocque was working.

Auction of Bodfish items

In a related matter, many of Bodfish's possessions, including his classic Bentley car estimated to be worth \$100,000 and a jade necklace with an estimated value of \$36,000 will be auctioned this weekend, February 5-6 at the Harvey Clars auction house on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland.

Experts say there would be little risk of contracting Q fever from the auction items. "The chances would be pretty low," Norris told the *B.A.R.* "Unless you are talking about items that are really dirty and dusty from animal dander and feces."

In keeping with Bodfish's will, the money from his estate will go to several organizations ranging from the Hysterectomy Educational and Resource Services to Off our Backs, a feminist organization best known for its feminist news journal of the same name.

Riegg said Bodfish's Mill Valley home was sold for about \$500,000. Riegg said the selling price had to be reduced because of the needed \$20,000 in termite work and because of the home's decor. The bathroom was painted black, the blinds were black, and one of the rooms was painted orange, according to Riegg.

Bodfish willed his Orinda home to the city or Orinda with the stipulation it be used for a wildlife sanctuary or public park. Riegg said he expected Orinda officials will try to work out an arrangement for the house to be sold to a private buyer and the proceeds be used to make the surrounding property a combination wildlife sanctuary, possibly with a hiking trail designed to be used by people who live in the area. Riegg said he didn't know if such an arrangement could be worked out without violating Bodfish's will.

Riegg said Bodfish's townhouse in Marin City is currently in escrow for \$380,000. Bodfish's son, Max Wills, had been living there in recent years. Wills, 33, committed suicide in a Santa Monica hotel room hours after his grandmother told him by phone that his mother (Bodfish) was dead. Police said he is not a suspect.

Bodfish, 56, was found beaten to death on the floor of his Orinda home June 30. Wills was found dead the next day.

Bodfish had lived as both a man and woman and has been described as extremely reclusive. "In his later years, Howard Hughes had nothing on Emmon Bodfish," veteran homicide detective Mark Hale told the *B.A.R.*

Wenzel said he expects police will turn to the public for help in solving the case sometime over the next month. Wenzel expects some new information on the case will be released through the media in an attempt to generate new leads and tips from the public. ▼

Leno wants GHB 'Safe Haven' laws

by Terry Beswick

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno announced last Monday, January 24 that he will propose "Safe Haven" laws related to the popular club drug GHB (gamma hydroxy butyrate). The proposals are based on a harm reduction model of drug treatment that informs users about the risks of drug use.

One proposed law would prevent the police and sheriff's departments from using 911 calls from nightclubs as a criteria for revoking the clubs' operating permits. A second ordinance would require nightclub owners to provide their patrons with free drinking water, responding to concerns that clubgoers often suffer from dehydration and heat exhaustion.

Leno also wants the board to

ask the city to draft guidelines for dance club owners to use in producing harm reduction literature about GHB and other drugs, and to urge owners to provide licensed medical personnel at large events.

"With people dying from mixing GHB with alcohol, and the ease of finding GHB over the Internet, we need to develop solutions to this problem immediately," Leno said. ▼

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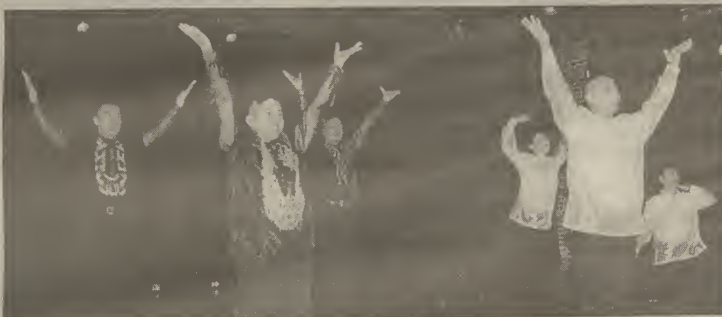


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GAPA dancers delight



Members of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Dance Company dance the traditional Filipino "Jota de Paragua" during Jubilee, a 10-year anniversary concert of the GAPA Men's Chorus held January 29. Song and dance from various traditions and centuries comprised the concert, produced by the new GAPA Community Arts Project.

San Francisco supervisors seek to change policy on bi-national same-sex couples

by Katie Szymanski

Imagine hearing a knock at the door and opening it to find that the government has come to take your lover away. It happens all the time in this land of the free; if you're gay or lesbian in the United States, you cannot sponsor your foreign lover for citizenship, regardless of any joint property, financial dependency, or children you may have together.

But on Tuesday, February 1, the Housing and Social Policy Committee of the San Francisco Board

of Supervisors took the symbolic step of designating San Francisco as "a place of refuge" for bi-national same-sex couples, a resolution that calls for the federal government to change its policies and asks city employees not to cooperate with immigration officials in turning someone in as an "illegal" alien.

The resolution — sponsored by Supervisor Leslie Katz — was unanimously supported by the committee and it now heads to the full board, which is expected

to vote on the matter at its next meeting. And while the resolution in no way offers legal protections or changes existing law, it does specifically grant the city "neutral" status in matters of immigration for same-sex couples, a move that Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights says "could potentially have some practical importance."

"The recognition of the issue is also extremely important," Minter

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Soto backtracks on Knight

by Katie Szymanski

When representatives of California Alliance for Pride and Equality met with Assemblywoman Nell Soto (D-Pomona) last week to discuss her endorsement of the anti-gay Knight initiative, Soto vehemently denied ever taking a position on Proposition 22, despite confirmations from several assemblymembers and the staff at the Protection of Marriage (Yes on Knight) campaign headquarters.

The assemblywoman — who has an openly gay son — told CAPE members that she would remain neutral on the proposition, which would deny same-sex marriages in California but also threaten basic gay civil rights such as hospital visitation rights and domestic partner benefits. Most other key Democrats have stated their opposition to

the initiative, yet now they must continue to lobby Soto to make sure she remains neutral.

"She will be held accountable for her actions. We are going to watch her like a hawk," said CAPE member Lisa Chun. "If she's neutral, she needs to stay neutral."

Despite repeated requests for a written statement on her position, however, CAPE members said that Soto still has not put anything in writing.

Soto's apparent endorsement of the Knight initiative drew outrage from the gay community; members of her district reportedly threatened to withdraw their support and funding for Soto, noting that a Democrat who did not vote for gay issues may as well be a Republican.

Once again, Soto's office did not return phone calls from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment on her new position. ▼



HEY GIRL, HEY!
by kika yoass

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COMMUNITY NEWS

City AIDS cases decline

by Terry Beswick

The AIDS epidemic is far from over, and the scourge is expected to continue well into the 21st century, killing millions worldwide.

But in San Francisco, where most people with HIV and AIDS have access to the latest medical advances against the disease, epidemiologists are reporting a continued decline in AIDS cases and deaths, a trend which began in the mid-1990s.

"We're not seeing at this point tremendous shifts," began Dr. Sandy Schwarcz, director of AIDS surveillance at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, summarizing the findings in the

latest Quarterly AIDS Surveillance Report, issued by DPH last month.

But these days, the lack of "tremendous shifts" represents good news, in that the epidemic has not taken a sudden turn for the worse – a significant concern due to a reported increase in unsafe sex in the city, and the potential emergence of strains of HIV resistant to currently available therapies.

"We continue to see declines in AIDS cases and deaths," said Schwarcz. "And we continue to see people living longer, and increases in the number of people living with AIDS."

In 1999, there were 464 new AIDS diagnoses in San Francisco – a significant and sustained de-

cline from previous years, with 688 recorded in 1998, 886 in 1997, 1,180 in 1996, and 1,727 in 1995.

"The number of AIDS cases and new diagnoses of AIDS cases peaked in 1992 in San Francisco, somewhat ahead of the rest of the nation," said Schwarcz, explaining that the epidemic in the U.S. started in San Francisco and Los Angeles. "And they've declined since then."

"The number of AIDS deaths dropped in 1995, and we've seen that ever since," she added.

San Francisco recorded 236 deaths from AIDS in 1999, the lowest number of total deaths recorded since 1983. There were 323 in 1998, 463 deaths in 1997, 1,121 deaths in 1996, and 1,680 deaths in 1995.

Schwarcz said the continued decline in AIDS cases and deaths "is a reflection of the more effective therapies" which came into widespread use in the mid-1990s, the "relatively stable number of people getting HIV infection," and the natural history of the epidemic.

The number of new AIDS diagnoses is dropping in the city and there are also fewer people dying. But people are also living longer after being diagnosed with AIDS.

As of the last quarter of 1999, there were 8,452 people living with AIDS in the city, an increase from 8,224 in the previous year.

The latest numbers may increase slightly due to delays in reporting. ▼

Court says gay jurors cannot get the boot

by Katie Szymanski

In a huge victory for gays and lesbians in California, the state's Fourth District Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday, February 1, that gays and lesbians constitute a "cognizable" group and therefore cannot be dismissed from a court jury on the basis of sexual orientation.

"It's a fabulous victory," said attorney Elaine Fitch, who helped write the brief in support of the Wheeler motion, which protests juror exclusion on the basis of belonging to a particular population, usually related to race or gender.

The ruling stemmed from *The People v. Garcia*, what the court called a "garden variety burglary" case, where two women – both lesbians, and both employees of the same lesbian and gay foundation – were dismissed during jury selection by the defense. Opposing lawyers then filed a Wheeler motion, which was denied in the Orange County Superior Court. But on appeal, the court said that a Wheeler motion could successfully be used if members of the dismissed group share a common perspective arising from their experience in a particular group.

"Lesbians and gay men qualify under this standard," said the court. "It cannot seriously be argued in this era of 'don't ask, don't tell' that homosexuals do not have a common perspective on human

events based upon their membership in that community."

This is a ruling that would have come in handy in two recent San Francisco murder trials where the victims were gay men; during jury selection for both the Edgard Mora and Steven Nary trials, gays and lesbians were quickly dismissed by the defense.

"In terms of victims' rights, there are cases where having someone who is part of the gay community adds to jury's understanding of what may or may not have gone on," said Ron Huberman, an investigator with the San Francisco District Attorney's office, who applauded the decision.

The court also emphasized that someone's sexual orientation should not even come up during jurors' questioning.

"No one should be allowed to inquire about it," said the court's opinion. "If it comes out somehow, as it did here, the parties will doubtless factor it into jury selection decisions, just as they factor in occupation, education, body language, and whether the juror resembles their stupid Uncle Cleetus."

"In the long run, the greatest threat of failure to guarantee the rights of gays and lesbians to serve on jury is to the commonweal," the court added. "The diverse and representative character of the jury must be maintained ... it is not just that group, but the entire community that suffers when these values are not fostered." ▼

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Register to vote

This Monday, February 7, is the deadline to register to vote in the March 7 primary election. If you have not registered to vote or have moved since the last election, you need to register so that you can vote against Proposition 22 next month.

The "Limit on Marriages" initiative, better known in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community as the Knight initiative, must be defeated and that can only happen if we have a high voter turnout – and if our straight friends, family members, and co-workers vote against it as well. The initiative would change the Family Code to state that "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." That language is devastating in that it gives ammunition to further discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Most readers know that this is not the first time that a ballot initiative attacks the rights of gay men and lesbians. In 1978, the Briggs initiative attempted to ban gays and lesbians from teaching in California classrooms. An effective statewide campaign resulted in that measure's defeat.

As opponents of Proposition 22 have pointed out, the effect of the Knight initiative goes far beyond the issue of same-sex marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union and others opposed to the initiative note that anti-gay extremists and even courts in other states have used similar anti-marriage laws to challenge or deny equal rights and responsibilities for lesbians and gay men, including hospital visitation rights, custody rights, domestic partnership laws, and even anti-discrimination laws.

Here in San Francisco, we enjoy some of the strongest civil rights laws, like the equal benefits ordinance and non-discrimination protections. At the state level, Assemblywoman Carole Migden's AB26, which went into effect January 1, established a statewide domestic partnership registry that includes hospital visitation rights.

The ACLU rightly points out that Proposition 22 is designed to drive yet another political wedge of intolerance and division through the state. Like Propositions 187, 209, and 227 – when the political targets were immigrants, women and people of color, and bilingual students – the Knight initiative will make political targets out of gay men and lesbians. Who's next?

Some good news for the No on Knight campaign is that Governor Gray Davis finally announced his opposition to Proposition 22 last Friday. We don't expect him to do much in the way of actively speaking out against the measure, however, and that's disappointing, given his commitment to opposing "wedge" issues like the Knight initiative.

Organized labor is also opposed to Proposition 22, and that's encouraging, since union members traditionally vote and are effective in terms of phone-banking and precinct walking.

Speaking of phone-banking and precinct walking, page 19 of this issue includes numerous activities, actions, and benefits for No on Knight that are scheduled throughout Northern California. Check it out and sign up to do something to help fight the Knight initiative.

The Knight initiative sets a dangerous precedent that invites more government intrusion and influence into our private lives and family choices. Of course, Proposition 22 is not the only issue on the ballot. The March 7 election includes presidential and Senate primary races, as well as primaries for a variety of state offices. But the Knight initiative is arguably the most important to the LGBT community, and we'll need every single "No" vote to defeat it.

And before you can vote in California, you must be registered. After this Monday, the campaign shifts to getting the vote out on March 7, and that too, will be a challenge. But between now and then, it's critical that people register to vote. You can go to City Hall in San Francisco, or your county registrar or voter's office or elections department. All forms must be turned in by 5 p.m. Monday.

In contrast, democracy is alive and well

in New Hampshire, where a huge percentage of people gave Senator John McCain and Vice President Al Gore victories in their respective primary races. McCain's win in particular was stunning, because it sent a message to "compassionate conservative" George W. Bush that he's not the "anointed" candidate of the Republican Party.

On the Democratic side, Gore's narrow victory shows that there's hope for his challenger, Bill Bradley; but the former New Jersey senator faces an uphill battle.

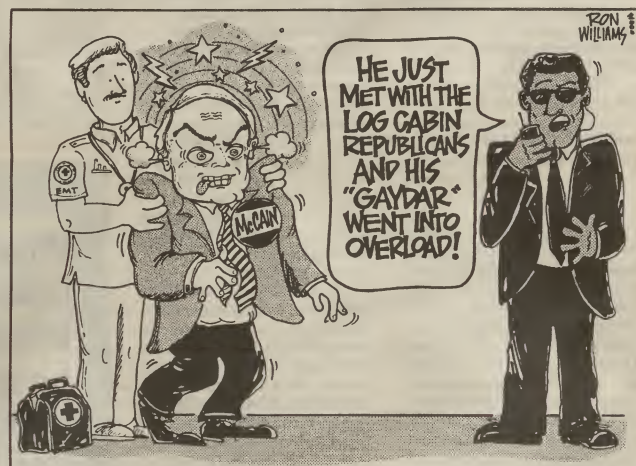
Bradley – who has raised almost as much money as Gore – will be in San Francisco today at noon to pump up his "Make it Happen" campaign at the Ferry Building Plaza. Bradley has been the

most outspoken candidate on the subject of gay rights; he's come out against the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy covering gays in the military, and he also is opposed to Proposition 22. While Gore has also stated his opposition to the Knight initiative and has come out against DADT, Bradley is the candidate who forced gay issues to the forefront of this primary season – something that hasn't happened before.

While we hope there is a high voter turnout for next month's primary, the reality of recent elections in California shows that the turnout likely will be low, and that's too bad, because a democracy is only as strong as its members, and voting is one of the primary responsibilities of citizenship. ▼



Editorial



A most unholy betrayal

by Cheryl Deaner

Last weekend I attended the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Religious Leadership Roundtable, held this year in the heart of Orange County. My mission was to make more clergy and faith groups aware of Solidarity Sabbath, All Our Families Coalition's clergy caucus' celebration of same-gender love, commitment, and protest against the Knight initiative.

Solidarity Sabbath is being celebrated on Valentine's Day weekend, February 11 through 14. During this time, hundreds of communities of faith will take a stand against the Knight initiative, Proposition 22 on the March 7 primary ballot.

I am not a clergy person. I have, however, been told by many who are that there is a "Holy" whose love is infinite and without boundaries.

If this is so, who is anyone to try to declare that some loving couples are sacred, and others are not?

People who place judgment on love do so for their own self-serving reasons. And as long as this is so, I believe there will be no real peace for anyone's family – or real justice.

AOFC's interfaith clergy caucus was formed two years ago by a small group of

local clergy who were beginning to deal with the issues that were leading up to the Knight initiative. It was acknowledged that the lack of a stand on behalf of same-gender love and commitment had been as damaging, in many ways, as a negative stance.

We who are LGBT people have lived our lives in the shadow of a most unholy betrayal by our religious institutions and our government. As a consequence, we have frequently even been betrayed by our own families, who have lived in fear of who one of their children might grow up to love.

In the past two years, AOFC's interfaith clergy caucus has grown to over 400 clergy willing to take a public stance that they support same-gender love and commitment. And over those past two years, I have watched a faith of sorts grow within myself regarding Proposition 22. Here are the ways my faith has deepened:

• 1. I believe love is eternal and feels the same for all people, and that attempts to diminish love will fail.

• 2. I believe homophobia is a faith-based disorder that is fanned by ignorance and fear. It can be overcome.

I also believe that although almost all of

us possess a seed of "faith," it has often been too risky to call it that, even to ourselves.

Last week, the clergy caucus printed bumper stickers that read, "People of Faith Vote No on Knight/No on Proposition 22." It has been interesting to discover who in our community can bear to put them on their cars, and who cannot.

For we are a people who have been persecuted for the very parts of us that are most sacred – our capacity to love one another. This can make it hard for us to have any "faith" – even in ourselves. To admit to being queer and a person of faith publicly is a challenge. It is also a challenge for the clergy of this state to accept their responsibility for allowing such a mean-spirited initiative as Proposition 22 to make

it on our ballot.

In this campaign season, there is plenty of room for all kinds of redemption. And all kinds of hope.

Vote "No" on Proposition 22. ▼

Cheryl Deaner talked about these issues at NGLTF's Religious Leadership Roundtable meeting.

LETTERS

Shades of Archie Bunker

How dare Supervisor Michael Yaki imply that the unfortunate death of our beloved policemen might have been caused due to the domestic partner law [*Yaki: Did gay rights cause helicopter crash?* January 20]. What kind of sick individual are you to even think of or even suggest that this might be an answer to a horrible situation. Two men were killed due to a terrible accident, not due to a civil rights law.

You should not only apologize to the people but resign due to being an Archie Bunker prototype in the year 2000.

Liam F. Hennessy
San Francisco

Yaki humbled

On January 18, 2000 I was interviewed on KTVU's *Mornings on 2* news program about the tragic helicopter crash that killed Inspector Kirk Brookbush and Officer James Dougherty, two decorated San Francisco police officers. In response to comments from the greater community and an article written by Terry Beswick (*B.A.R.*, January 20) regarding the interview, I need to reiterate my staunch support of the equal benefits ordinance (EBO) and clarify my comments about the crash.

I am an ardent supporter of the domestic partners law and will resist any attempt to weaken it. I have supported all attempts to refine and strengthen the law. I stand unified with Supervisors Ammann, Katz, and Leno in opposition to the Knight initiative and in support of their efforts to expand domestic partner benefits at the state and federal level.

The EBO is absolutely not connected with the cause of the crash. Nor do I support any review of the EBO. Any interpretation of this from my interview was not intended and regrettable. For your readers and the greater community, I hope this statement dispels any doubt or concern on this point. Unfortunately, the reality of a fast-paced interview usually excludes the opportunity to choose your words carefully and this may be the case with this situation.

As an Asian American I am acutely aware of the damage and pain that insensitive comments can cause. I would like to apologize to those for whom my interview responses, however unintended, were a personal affront or brought into question my support of gay, lesbian, and transgender rights. I have found this experience a valuable lesson and humbling.

Michael Yaki, Member
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Coming out means coming home

I am writing to add my condolences to those being offered for Dick Pabich, the extraordinary man whose political skills and style helped elect Harvey Milk to the Board of Supervisors in 1977. I worked on that campaign, and was privileged to meet Dick. I left politics after Harvey's victory and lost contact with Dick, but have remembered him all these years for his many qualities, including commitment.

I'd like to share a particularly fine moment I once had with him. I happened to be talking to him one day and noticed that he seemed a little distracted. "I just talked to this big, national group the other day," he said, a beautiful smile spreading over his young, bright face, "and they didn't know I was gay." Since I assumed that he did a lot of public speaking, I was still a little mystified by his reaction. "I came out to them as a gay man," he suddenly exclaimed, "and I never felt happier in my entire life."

He'd found himself, and to just what extent we all know now. I learned many things that long ago season in the Milk campaign, but to Dick alone I owe thanks for a lesson I derived from his happy epiphany: coming out means coming home.

Barry L. Green
San Francisco

No on Proposition 22

This is in response to the letter from Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon in the January 27 *Bay Area Reporter*.

As a member of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, I would like to express my agreement with the position this organization has taken in the case of *Baker v. State*.

Focus on the Family has sent me a packet concerning Proposition 22, the source of which seems to be the Protection of Marriage Committee. The concepts of "marriage" and "domestic partnership" are not "separate but equal." As U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer has said, "A domestic partnership (recognizes) a long-term relationship of people of the same sex, and marriage (recognizes) a long-term relationship of people of the opposite sex."

My letter of January 13 also said, "If the Knight initiative passes in March 2000 then it would be a setback for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community." I would like to join Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon in urging a "No" vote on Proposition 22.

Robert V. Wood
San Francisco

Clean air trumps smoke

In his letter to the editor [*"Self-absorbed" smoker's tale*, January 13] Reid Condit complains, "I'm denied an enclosed public space where I can ... smoke comfortably." He then makes the tired old accusation that clean-air advocates are "totalitarian."

Reid, we're not Nazis and I want to affirm your right to do whatever you want with your body - as long as you do it in a way that doesn't harm others. Neither I nor the clean-air advocates I know are interested in denying you anything. We only ask that you respect our wish not to be involuntarily exposed to the toxins you voluntarily ingest.

You very appropriately refer to public smoking as a comfort; yet in this case the basic necessity for clean public air trumps your pursuit of individual comforts.

Warren Longmire
San Francisco

AIDS in Africa

Finally, the attention of Americans is being directed to the global pandemic of AIDS. In bringing the issue for the first time before the UN Security Council, Al Gore stated, "We must understand that the old conception of global security, with its focus almost solely on armies, ideologies, and geopolitics, has to be enlarged. The heart of our security agenda is protecting lives - and we now know that the number of people who will die of AIDS in the first decade of the 21st century will rival the number that died in all the wars in all the decades of the 20th century."

Newsweek (January 17) - like the UN meeting - focused the spotlight on sub-Saharan Africa, where 16.3 million people are already dead and 10 million children orphaned.

Leaders in the African American community, like former member of Congress Ron Dellums (Healthcare International), C. Payne Lucas (Africare), and Randall Robinson (TransAfrica), are organizing and lobbying.

Jeff Getty's column in the January 20 *B.A.R.* also focuses on the magnitude of the crisis. He quotes Cleve Jones, recently returned from Cape Town, as saying, "What people in South Africa face now [with AIDS] makes what we went through 10 years ago seem like a Sunday picnic." No idle comment from a man who has been at the forefront of gay liberation and AIDS activism. Cleve is now working on a proposal for the Names Project - his creation - to begin a program of "sponsorships" in which PWAs and other caring Americans will be able to directly assist HIV-infected people in Africa and elsewhere. Cleve has answered the question so many of us ask - when faced with the overwhelming horror of AIDS in places like Africa, why bother to do anything? Isn't any amount of assistance a drop in the ocean? His response is that first steps, like the sponsorships, are "necessary to create a moral imperative" for action as a nation.

While I understand the political wisdom of framing AIDS as a security threat and support that effort, I would love to see LGBTs play a major role in creating that moral imperative.

Thank you, Cleve, for your insight and inspiration.

Rodger Brooks
San Francisco

Pride board mired in controversy

By now, the "new" parade board has been seated and will be working diligently on preparing for the 30th anniversary event, and setting the stage for ushering the gay community into the next century. I am very disheartened to see that it will be mired in more controversy than it has seen in many years. One such controversy is another election scandal.

I've been mysteriously voted off this term after over four years of service, in what I feel to be a suspicious manner. It was obvious that a large number of Alice B. Toklas Club members attended the last board election meeting to vote out John Caldera, who had upset them in his column about his choice for mayor. (Not currently living in the city, I made no preference toward one candidate or the other.) My number of votes was almost as low as Mr. Caldera's was, which was a huge surprise to many members. I can only surmise that the Alice B. Toklas Club members were "coached" as to whom to vote for or against. I had almost as few votes as Caldera, but I feel that I was just "dragged into Calvin's pot," and that is my perception.

I was also told by another board member that he voted against me because I had nominated Gilbert Baker, whom every board member knows is "a very difficult artistic type person" to work with. I have been seen cohorting with the "enemy." That's because I have always chosen to listen to all sides, no matter how difficult, and honor their interests and concerns.

While publicly stating that he was happy with my return, Mr. Gipson's actions have shown differently. I believe he felt that I was a "thorn" in the side of

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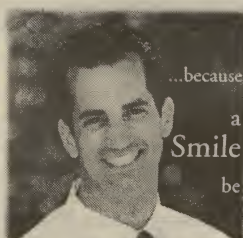


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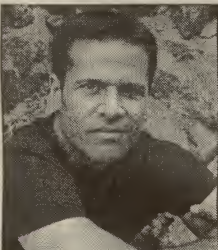
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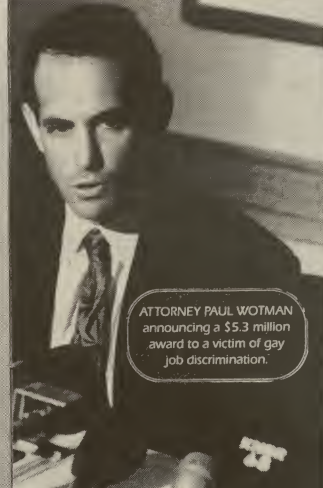
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achieving his own goals. I was only sorry that we never actually got to go out and "party" and bond so that we might have been able to work better together.

Having been nurtured by the many previous board members, I have learned what community service means, and also have seen how that service can turn into an abuse of power. I am thankful for the experiences it has brought me, and the many personalities I have had the pleasure to connect with. I have always been known as one who helped bring a sense of calmness and stability to a very diverse board.

In his president's report, Mr. Gipson stated that after the previous election was invalidated, a membership drive was held. A very loose statement. When I came on the board after the last election issues, I specifically asked what the strategy was, and was told that there was no strategy. "We're just too drained from all this controversy right now" was the reply I got from Mr. Gipson. We were all very casually told to go out and sign up our friends. I asked to have support in tabling in local areas, and was told by the VP that it was inappropriate at this time. The last weekend before the deadline, Mr. Caldera and myself tabled in the Castro, bringing in 40 new members.

Mr. Gipson claims that he is trying his best to do everything right, and bring everyone together. My personal experience tells me that it may be true, as long as it is his right, and as long as everyone is together in his way. Our community is just too diverse to be able to come together in all aspects. I am not a force trying to tear the board apart, simply a force with a different point of view. I can agree to disagree, and still work well with anyone, not make sneaky backroom deals, and exclaim, "we have nothing to hide." If so, then why are there more confidential memos than I have ever seen in the past?

The other ex-board members who are upset are all good people who have the highest regard and concern for the parade and celebration. It is the greatest venue to show our ability to come together, to show our power, our causes, and to be playful. Most of these people have been around for more years than they might care to tell. They may not be the easiest to work with, but I personally respect them all, as I do for the people I've worked with on the board, and my greater queer community volunteers.

I will not comment on Mr. Caldera's column, except to say that people have a right of free speech, yet must be prepared to suffer the consequences of their words. But a parade board president's responsibility is not to use his position as a bully pulpit to publicly and personally attack someone. (See "Pride clash continues," January 27.) It is inappropriate and not good parade representation. Mr. Gipson's perceptions of John Caldera as making racist comments are just that, his own perception.

I wish to thank the men, women, and others I've worked with. You've all given me the opportunity to experience. I've always loved my volunteer work, 13 years of it, and will always recommend it to anyone with the courage and drive to provide service. I've never tried gaining power or money as some have suggested. Nonprofits are not a good venue for that. However, I feel that my efforts would be better served in working with another more deserving organization. My desire to work with the parade has soured, thanks to my interactions with the current board president. I might recommend anyone sign up, if you like playing the part of a "puppet".

My writing of this letter possibly puts me in violation of recently set forth membership policies and procedures. Now, if I were to be expelled from membership for my words, I would recommend the same for Mr. Gipson as a result of his comments in the B.A.R.

I believe that this year's event will be poorly staffed by volunteers, maybe they can call upon the 2,000 volunteers Calvin says he had last year. If he's got nothing to hide then where is that list? I've researched it and haven't found any such list. As an outgoing board member, I've not received so much as even a "thank you" verbally or in writing for my past efforts, by any present board member. Keep working on that community outreach guys! We'll all be at the parade and celebration though, having a great time despite the "Pride Process Queen".

Christopher Martin
Livermore, California

The dualistic system

It really should be of no surprise that the Catholic Church (one among many) is endorsing the Knight (as in the Crusades) proposition, for both the church and political makeup of this country are dualistic. The church is to ensure that there are families producing children to supply the factories with workers and the armies with soldiers; and the political system is there to maintain the hostility toward any revolutionary movement for equality that would upset the "established order." Both the church and state are in a

profane and unholy marriage maintaining the dualistic system.

The sexual (r)evolution of the 1960s began a movement toward equality, which threatens the foundation of the dualistic system. The Catholic Church primarily needs sexually repressed women and men (fear is a powerful tool of manipulation and exploitation) to fill its bureaucracy, for married clergy is not an option. For in a dualistic religion only the traditional paterfamilias is allowed in the mainstream of society and those who differ (primarily homosexuals) must conform to the celibate life, becoming part of the church hierarchy where all women are on the bottom as slaves serving the men on top, the mirror image (as in heaven so on earth) of the paterfamilias. There is no third choice in a dualistic society. It was no coincidence that the sexual (r)evolution began in the 1960s and that the church was beginning to lose vocations after Vatican II, also in the 1960s.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sexual (r)evolution is a third option, the reconciliation between the two unequal opposing sides, heterosexual men versus heterosexual women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders. And therefore this (r)evolution is considered to be a heretical movement opposing the comfortable dichotomy where the heterosexual celibate male god has ordered the universe (the male god on top and in control of the female earth) and any deviation to this order is considered to be evil.

The church has time on its hands, for if the church does not return the current generation to the repression before the 1960s — for if we remain complacent — the church will succeed in the next generation or the one after that.

Wake up or McCarthyism will once again determine who is an American and who is not.

Douglas A. Matley
San Francisco

Compelled to speak for homeowners

Responding to the article "As the Castro Turns," [January 13] and subsequent letters to the editor, I feel compelled to play the "bad guy" and speak up for the homeowners.

Dan Andrade and Mark Chapman's attorney, Andrew Zacks, states regarding Glenn-Allen McKeever's apartment: "It's an illegal in-law unit. To continue to rent it would be against the law." That should be the end of the story. But to the B.A.R., it's a front-page story, and what a silly one. Once again, somebody throws out the name Harvey Milk because they're being picked on, and that in San Francisco always means war. If you knew Harvey Milk or you're HIV-positive or you moved to San Francisco before some arbitrary date in "gay" history or you picked up litter in the park once, you're automatically entitled to special treatment, and what's more, outraged if you don't receive it.

The fact that these two men have reached the level of affluence that will afford them a home in the Castro does not make them criminals, nor does it mean that they owe anything to their tenant, gay or straight. And who is anyone to judge the moral character of these two men? How does anyone know the extent of their community service or philanthropy? Where does anyone get the right to call them sissies or amoral or greedy just because they own a house or worked in Silicon Valley?

The city is changing. All of us thought change was good when the gay community started moving into the Castro, but now the Castro and neighboring areas are beyond capacity of eager gay men and women who want to call San Francisco home. Some are younger, some are older, some are wealthy, and those who aren't are feeling the sting. Would Harvey Milk be outraged by this? I don't know. But this diverse community would be better served by not using his name every time someone or some group isn't getting their way.

I moved to San Francisco two years ago and suffered the sticker shock that many do when I learned that a small apartment in the Castro was going to cost me \$1,500 a month. But you know what? I paid it. I wanted to live here. My disposable income decreased dramatically, but this was my priority, and I'm not whining about it. Many others have done the same thing.

For Mr. McKeever's contribution to the gay community in San Francisco over the years, he deserves our respect. No one should make light of the efforts of those who worked to make this a livable neighborhood for gays and lesbians. And yes, this city is in need of low cost housing for people with limited incomes. But to imply that these two homeowners owe McKeever continued rights to their property because he helped make the neighborhood livable is ludicrous. As long as Mr. Andrade and Mr. Chapman are within the law, they deserve to be allowed to do with their property as they wish, regardless of whether or not they "need the space." That's nobody's place to judge.

David Dixon
San Francisco

POLITICS

California state primary system is confusing

by Wayne Friday

The March 7 California presidential primary election is less than five weeks away and if you are one of the state's independent (formally "decline to state") voters and want to have your vote count for a particular candidate, you have only until this Monday, February 7 to register either as a Democrat or as a Republican.

Indeed, if you are among those now registered as independent and favor, say, **Al Gore** for the Democrats or **John McCain** for the Republicans, you must register as a Democrat or a Republican by February 7 in order for your individual vote to count for your candidate.

That's because on March 7, California will, in effect, have two presidential primaries. One will be the conventional primary in which registered party members elect delegates to

the respective national party conventions, who, in turn, will choose each party's candidate according to the voters' preference. The other is actually little more than a "beauty contest" whose results will be reported by election officials but may count for little other than headlines.

In the first of these simultaneous primaries, only the choice of voters registered in the respective national parties will be counted. In other words, if you are currently registered independent and you want to vote for Gore or **Bill Bradley** and want your vote to count for your candidate – in the all-important delegate count process – you must change your registration to Democrat by February 7. While the names of all candidates will be on all ballots, the ballots will be coded in such a way that any Democrat who votes for, say, McCain, or any independent who votes for, say, Gore, would give the candidate little more than moral support.

This confusing scenario is a result of Proposition 198, approved by voters in 1996, which created a process whereby any voter can cast a ballot for a candidate of any party. The result being that in elections like the last gubernatorial contest, registered Republicans could (and apparently did) vote for Democrat **Gray Davis**, while Democratic voters were able to vote for his opponent, Republican **Dan Lungren**, and still have their votes count.

In fact, in the upcoming March 7 primary if a registered Republican wants to vote for Democratic Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, or if a registered Democrat wants to vote for a GOP Assembly candidate, they could do so and that vote would indeed count for that candidate.

It's only the presidential primary that is confusing. That's because the national major parties – Democrat and Republican – are governed by rules that do not allow for the California-type primary and will only seat delegates to their respective nominating conventions that are actually chosen by their registered party members.

In effect, there will be two tallies of votes counted in each party from the March 7 primary – one

for the popular vote and a second for the total votes cast for candidates within their own parties. It is the latter vote count that will be used in the delegate selection process. The Democratic Party delegates, incidentally, will be chosen on a proportional basis according to the total vote of registered Democrats, thereby assuring that both Gore and Bradley will be sending delegates to the Los Angeles convention in August. The GOP uses the winner-take-all process, where the candidate with the highest number of votes cast by registered Republicans wins all of the state's delegates to the party's July convention.

California's secretary of state says that of the state's 14 million registered voters, some 2 million are currently registered as independents, so if you are one of those voters and wish to help either Gore or Bradley garner delegates to the convention, or perhaps McCain or **George W. Bush**, you must register with the respective Democrat or Republican party no later than February 7.

Finally, the professionals who run both parties argue that ballots cast by people who are not registered party members should not have a voice in choosing their candidates and both parties will operate under those rules, so don't unwittingly toss away your vote on March 7 by having failed to register (or re-register) with either of the two major parties, especially if you have a favored candidate.



Supervisor Leslie Katz

Politics and people

Supervisor **Leslie Katz** tells me that, contrary to current rumors, she will not be retiring from the Board of Supes this year. Katz, who recently took a high-level job as vice president of corporate affairs with Petstore.com in Emeryville, says she plans to be a candidate in November from the city's 6th District (South of Market).

And was that Supervisor **Amos Brown** at the Registrar of Voters last week possibly changing his address to a location in the 11th District (Excelsior)?

Governor Davis last Friday announced his opposition to Proposition 22 (Knight initiative). As Davis is popular with California voters, his opposition might just be the difference in defeating this ugly, anti-gay measure.

Sorry to mention it, but those who read in the city's two dailies last week that state transportation chief (and former SF supe) **Jose Medina** is in the governor's doghouse could

have read that here weeks ago.

Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** says that Assembly Speaker-elect **Robert Hertzberg** (D-Sherman Oaks), who will take over the top Assembly spot in April from **Antonio Villaraigosa**, is an "excellent choice" for the powerful Sacramento post.

Gay and lesbian voters in the East Bay's 7th state Senate District (Contra Costa County) will want to know that the incumbent Republican in that district, **Richard Rainey**, has endorsed Proposition 22 in the upcoming March primary, while his Democratic challenger, Assemblyman **Tom Torlakson** opposes the Knight initiative. This is a bitterly fought contest in a district the Democrats think they can take from the GOP. Democrat **Torlakson**, whose bisexual brother died of AIDS, calls Proposition 22 "divisive," and also says he believes the Legislature should approve legal protections for same-sex couples.

Presidential politics: Question of the Week has observers wondering how George W. Bush can continue to run as a "pro-life Republican," considering the record number of Texas convicts he has sent to death row; more than any previous Texas governor.

Then there's **Alan Keyes**, the fiery, anti-gay GOP candidate in a pinstripe suit. This insufferably righteous blowhard seems to hate gays even more than his homophobic colleague, **Gary Bauer**.

And you Democrats who think **Bill Bradley** is being unjustly attacked by party leaders who strongly favor **Al Gore** shouldn't feel too sorry for the jock candidate – Bradley earned nearly \$4 million for his personal bank account in two years from giving corporate speeches and he reportedly has twice as much money in his campaign coffers as has Gore. It's time for Bradley to stop portraying himself as the Washington outsider/populist if you ask me.

And has anyone asked why Republican gay and lesbian supporters of John McCain have not bothered to call their man to task for his blatant stereotyping of homosexuals; McCain's apparent "gaydar" caused some eyebrows to raise among reporters when he claimed he knows one when he sees one. "I think we know by behavior and by attitudes ... and lifestyle," the candidate said. McCain's "gaydar" – that he apparently uses as some sort of scanning device to detect sexual orientation on the basis of superficial characteristics, brought nary a comment from gay Republicans and that is probably because at his worst, McCain is still likely the best of a sorry lot of Republican presidential hopefuls.

Then there was both **Barbara** and papa **George Bush** campaigning hard in New Hampshire last week for son George W., calling him "our boy" at every appearance.

Lesbian actress-comedian **Ellen DeGeneres** turned 42 last week and some of her San Francisco friends reportedly were in LA to help her celebrate.

My "Quote of the Week" by Jonathan Radigan of Vermont, arguing for a state law that would allow gays and lesbians to marry, not just be partners: "I doubt I will ask him to be my domestic partner; it sounds like someone who cleans the house." ▼

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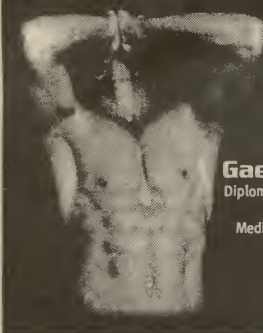
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Rocker room talk

by Nancy Boutilier

The jock world let out a collective gasp when Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker let fly his prejudices in a *Sports Illustrated* interview about a month ago. Rocker delivered his slurs like he was slinging fast balls. The Atlanta ace threw strikes of disdain at Asian Americans, African Americans, gay men, people with AIDS, teens with purple hair, young mothers, mothers (as in, your mother), and all foreigners.

Rocker's comments were judged so far foul that baseball commissioner Bud Selig ordered Rocker to undergo a psychological evaluation. Although the test results are not being made public, the commissioner has weighed in with a suspension, a \$20,000 fine, and sensitivity training for Rocker.

The players' union has already made clear its intention of challenging Selig's ruling. The "free speech" arguments are warming up in the bullpen. The union would do well to remember that the Braves organization and Major League Baseball are employers of athletes. Questions worth asking include: When do comments like Rocker's constitute the creation of a hostile workplace for teammates? Whose job is it to educate Rocker? Is it enough to just shut him up? Is speaking to the sports media a personal endeavor or a job-related one for an athlete?

Rocker does not like the decision. "I do not believe it is appropriate that I should be harshly disciplined for my misguided speech

unaccompanied by any conduct on my part," Rocker said in a statement released by his agents. "I have previously apologized for my unfortunate remarks and stand by my apology."

Rocker's apology was an unimpressive one. He employed the "some of my best friends are..." defense on an ESPN interview last month, though, in doing so, he certainly did not suggest that any of his friends or acquaintances were gay.

If Rocker were on his, he would have noted that in the fraternity of professional athletes, the wagons never circled up to protect him and his attitudes. He even drew some "friendly fire" from teammates.

Most revealing (since they won't release the test results) is Rocker's explanation for his remarks. He told reporters that he had lost his cool and said things he didn't mean about the fans "to inflict some emotional pain in retaliation to the pain that had been inflicted on me."

It does not take ink blots to see that John Rocker is a major league bully. If he wanted to retaliate, he would have lashed out at the beer-drinking fans who boo him — possibly guys who look a lot like Rocker himself — but, being the bully that he is, Rocker chose to target anyone and everyone that he views as other, different, weaker, less.

Braves owner, Ted Turner, thinks his star player deserves a second chance, not just in baseball, but in how Rocker is perceived. "I don't think we ought to hold it against him forever," Turner told CNN. Which "IT" should we not to hold against him? Are we to not hold his loose tongue against him or his bigoted attitudes? Shall we not pin the labels on him — racist, homophobe, bigot — until he proves otherwise?

While I want to celebrate the fact that a professional athlete is being called on his homophobia, I know that it's being addressed because it came with the whole "bigotry" that Rocker delivered. The headlines have not suggested that Rocker is being suspended for his homophobia. Rather, the first I saw from the Associated Press ran: "Rocker Suspended by Selig for Racist Comments." While Rocker's racism alone is offensive

enough to warrant response, so too, should his homophobia. I suspect that if Rocker had only offended us queers, there would have been little call for a suspension, a fine, or an examination of his head.

Rocker's blunder was not his drawing of "We-They" lines, but the placement of them. Some of Rocker's "them" is baseball's "us." Baseball is where names like Garciaparra and Nommo rule the roost alongside Robinson and Ruth. To not celebrate racial and ethnic diversity is to not celebrate the modern game. But a hierarchy of acceptable prejudice continues on in our culture. And in major league sports, all women and gay men remain the "them." In short, the contempt that Rocker expressed for queers and women is not a locker room aberration.

Turner suggested that Rocker's celebrity caused the stir. "If he couldn't get people out, I don't think it would have been much of a problem," said Turner. But, Turner has it backwards. It's because of Rocker's celebrity that no one has challenged him

along the way. These were not new attitudes, newly expressed, sprouting from Rocker's tongue for the first time when they appeared in *Sports Illustrated* last month. Writer Jeff Pearlman observed in the article that "Rocker is rarely tongue-tied when it comes to bashing those of a race or sexual orientation different from his."

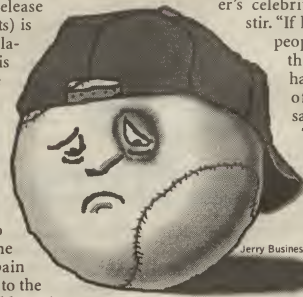
What long line of people could have challenged his narrow mind along the way? I can't help thinking about how his teachers and coaches at Presbyterian Day High may have shaped the very horror the Rocker expressed at the thought of having to ride a subway train sitting "next to some queer with AIDS."

In our culture of athletic idolatry, it is precisely because John Rocker can strike out batters that he has been led to believe he can say whatever he wants about whomever he wants.

Bud Selig's ruling is a start, but why stop there? If, as Selig has said, "The terrible example set by Mr. Rocker is not what our great game is about and, in fact, is a profound breach of the social compact we hold in such high regard," then let's hold all professional athletes to that same standard.



Dykeotomy



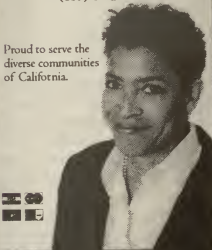
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COMMUNITY NEWS

What were the Toronto bathhouse raids of '81?

by David Bianco

February 5, 1981 (19 years ago this week): In a single sweep, police raid four gay bathhouses in Toronto, arresting almost 300 men.

It wasn't the first anti-gay police action in Canada's history, but it was the biggest and most brutal. On February 5, 1981, 150 plainclothes and uniformed police officers staged violent raids on four gay bathhouses in Toronto and arrested almost 300 men.

City politics played a major role in the raids. In the elections of November 1980, right-wing municipal candidates for the first time played the "gay card," raising the threat of gay power to win votes. Toronto's gay-friendly mayor lost his bid for re-election to an archconservative. The City Council, too, shifted to the right.

The Body Politic, the city's gay newspaper, anticipated in December 1980 that "the police [will] feel more comfortable" with the new mayor and that would lead to increased harassment of gays and other minorities. On February 5 of the following year, the prediction came true.

At 11 o'clock that night, police simultaneously raided four of Toronto's five gay bathhouses — the Barracks, the Club Baths, the Richmond Street Health Emporium, and the Roman Sauna Baths. At the Richmond Street establishment, undercover officers arrived first and asked for a room and a locker. After the "customers" paid, they seized the cashier and the manager of the bathhouse and placed them under arrest. "I looked out the window and saw all these men pouring in through the door," the cashier recalled.

At the Barracks, "a guy in plain clothes ... shoved me up against the wall," one bathhouse patron reported. Besides bloodying the man's nose, the undercover cop repeatedly punched him in the lower back while taunting him verbally, "You're disgusting, faggot." Severe physical and verbal abuse of patrons was reported at all four bathhouses.

In addition to roughing up the patrons, police used crowbars and hammers to smash through doors and walls, causing significant damage to the premises. Patrons could hear the police "moving around, kicking things, overturning things," one gay man recounted. "Somebody said, 'Too bad the showers aren't hooked up to gas.'"

At two of the bathhouses, employees attested that police claimed to have search warrants but refused to present them. Many of the plainclothes policemen also never bothered to show their badges. Police at the Richmond Street baths allegedly answered the phone during the raid with quips to callers such as, "Michael's tied up right now."

In all, the raids lasted three hours, and damage to the bathhouses was estimated at \$35,000. Canadian "bawdy house" laws permitted the arrest of bathhouse patrons on charges of prostitution or indecency, and a total of 266 men were taken into custody as "found-ins." Twenty employees were also arrested, as well as a medic from a clinic that gave free VD checks to bathhouse patrons.

Community response was fast and furious. By noon on February 6, concerned and angry representatives from Toronto's leading gay organizations began to strategize. In just four hours, a coalition of activists had rounded up a sound truck and marshals and had produced 4,000 flyers calling for a demonstration that night against the police raids.

At midnight, at a busy intersection in the heart of Toronto's gayest neighborhood, protesters began gathering. A few hundred led the way, blowing whistles and chanting "Stop the cops!" Others soon arrived, and patrons of gay bars got off their barstools and joined the angry throng. Within half an hour, a crowd of about 1,500 surged toward the police station where the men arrested the night before had been held.

As the crowd neared the station, protesters met with resistance from the police, who once again resorted to brutality. Several people were injured, one cop car was vandalized, and 11 demonstrators were arrested. "It was our Stonewall," one participant later declared, though, in fact, Canadian gays had been forging a liberation movement for 10 years.

Two weeks after the bathhouse raids, community anger had not died down. On February 20, the largest gay demonstration in Canadian history up to that point took place in Toronto's Queen's Park, with at least 2,000 in attendance. Many straight people joined the gay community in outrage against the brutality of the police's actions.

The events of February 1981

mobilized gay Torontonians to renewed and radical political action. "I finally got angry," wrote Ken Popert, editor of *The Body Politic*. "As long as society continues to demand us as its victims and its human sacrifices, that anger is going to be there, waiting to get into us, again and again." Based on photographs of the damage and the testimony of eyewitnesses, the City Council in late February voted for an independent inquiry into the raids.

In the months that followed, Toronto's existing gay organizations grew in size and strength, and new ones formed to keep applying pressure to local government. Anti-violence street patrols were initiated. A print ad was created for U.S. newspapers and travel agents, discouraging vacationers: "Ontario — isn't there somewhere else you'd rather go?" By the summer, the city had funded a report on how to improve relations between gays and the police.

Perhaps even more importantly, though, gay activists began discussing and implementing ways to create alternatives to bars and bathhouses. "We finally may be getting something we've been saying we've had for the last 10 years," one activist noted: "a gay community." ▼

David Bianco can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com.

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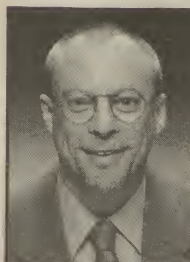
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Welcome home

by Jane Warner and
Ron McGlashan

3 900 block of 19th, January 20, 2:30 a.m.: A man approached another man who was standing in front of his apartment gate and began a conversation. Suddenly, the suspect pushed the man, causing him to fall and hit his head on a concrete step. The victim momentarily lost consciousness. When he woke, the suspect, described as an Asian male, 40-45 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds, wearing a dark long sleeve sweatshirt, was gone and so was the victim's wallet.

Rough Wrangler

300 block of Dolores, January 19, 11:50 p.m.: A man walked out of his house and saw a stranger sitting in his parked Jeep. The man yelled to his friends to call the police and then followed the suspect who fled on foot. Catching up to him, he ordered the thief to give back what he stole from his vehicle. The culprit threw down several CDs and ran east on 18th. The man returned to his Jeep and discovered the driver's side window smashed. The suspect is described as an African American

male, 30 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, wearing a black puffy jacket and a yellow hooded sweatshirt with dark pants.

Chestnuts roasting ...

4400 block of 18th, January 20, 1:30 a.m.: Two apartment buildings on the block were evacuated after a fire alarm sounded early Thursday morning. Firefighters, police, and traffic control officers responded to the smoldering building. The fire was determined to have been caused by a faulty fireplace. No injuries were reported and the extent of the damage was unknown.

Cut it out

100 Collingwood, January 22, 9:40 a.m.: Police responded to reports of a man screaming that he was going to stab someone. Upon arrival, officers saw a man sitting on the steps of Eureka Valley playground with a knife sticking out of his vest pocket. The man explained he was mad because someone had stolen his lap top computer. Booked for carrying a concealed weapon and having a no bail warrant for parole violation was Sean Stillwell, 22.

Compassionate conservatives

Church and Market, January

24, 11:20 p.m.: Two men started to beat up a man after he asked them to buy his *Street Sheet*. Several patrons from inside the Expansion bar saw what was happening and came to the man's aid, holding the assailants until police arrived. Booked for battery were Dennis Blout, 30, and Ben Blout, 36.

Puffy daddies

19th and Hartford, January 26, 9:10 p.m.: A man who was walking home was surrounded by two other men who demanded his wallet. When he hesitated, one of the suspects pulled a black semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and placed it on the man's temple, telling him, "Give me your wallet." After the victim gave him the wallet, which contained about \$14 and some credit cards, the suspects also took the man's duffel bag stuffed with gym clothes. Both suspects, described as Asian males, 20-25 years old, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 150 pounds, wearing black caps and black puffy jackets, ran northbound on Hartford toward 18th Street. ▼

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◀ page 1

with Dr. Kaiser since March 1999."

Meanwhile, Kaiser noted that a group of center patients is independently organizing to raise money to reopen the clinic, in the hopes of reorganizing it as a nonprofit entity. According to the center's website (www.jonkaiser.com), the goal of the Save the Wellness Center Trust Fund is "to raise \$500,000 over the next several months and to reopen the center as a nonprofit that would be renamed the Community-based Integrative Medicine Center."

"I would be willing to turn it into a nonprofit, integrative health center," Kaiser told the *Bay Area Reporter*, while adding that he would not necessarily be involved with the new nonprofit clinic.

But several sources said that Kaiser's failure to be forthcoming earlier about the Wellness Center's impending closure, among other factors - makes them wonder if the doctor sincerely wanted to keep the money-losing clinic open at all.

"I'm saddened by it. Look what's happened to us. We've been literally tossed into the wind," said David Nembhard, one of about 500 of the clinic's HIV/AIDS patients. "I'm angered beyond words based on the fact that I was given no notice, less than one week's notice." Nembhard said his doctor, who was laid off in the shutdown, is so angry with Kaiser "that they haven't spoken in days."

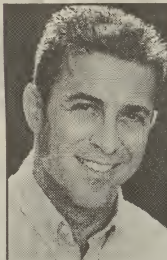
Nembhard added that he had been trying to raise money for the center's fund, and had planned on contributing personally, but he had been told by center staff that the funds would be used to pay off Kaiser's other debts, which the doctor has acknowledged total some \$300,000, and would therefore not be contributing.

Kaiser's Wellness Center has prided itself for offering its 1,500 patients one-stop shopping for both state-of-the-art Western medicine, as well as acupuncture and other "alternative" treatments of more Eastern origins - a unique clinical combination that may have led to the increased attention to his billing practices. ▼

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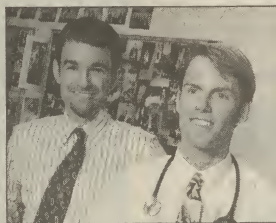
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Oasis celebrates 20 years



The Right Reverend Otis Charles, center, presided over a service last Saturday, January 29 in Grace Cathedral, celebrating 20 years of Oasis/California, the LGBT ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of California. The service of song, message, remembrance, and celebration was enjoyed by the several hundred people who attended.

Rick Gerhardt

Clinton offers something for everyone in speech

by Bob Roehr

Bill Clinton is not acting like a lame duck president content to merely serve out the remaining year of his term in office. In his final State of the Union address to Congress and the nation last Thursday, January 27 he offered up a smorgasbord of program activity both great and small.

Near the very end of the 90-minute speech, in a section on "community," he turned to hate violence. He referred to a list of victims, including "A young man [Matthew Shepard] murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay." Clinton renewed his call for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), as well as reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

"No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Protections in law must be protections in fact," Clinton said.

But for lesbians and gays, the problem is that neither existing federal laws nor the proposed ones supported by the president include protection in areas of housing or loans. Nor do they resolve a multitude of other legal issues created when civil law disregards gay relationships by denying them the benefits and protections conferred through state sanctioned marriage.

That was the only time that Clinton spoke the word "gay." There was no mention of lesbians or transgendered people.

The president did mention AIDS twice. The most extended passage focused upon an additional \$150 million to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases, primarily in Africa. He also supported a tax credit for private industry working to develop vaccines against these diseases. Representative Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco has pushed that measure.

In the days leading up to the address the White House made clear that it is seeking incremental increases in funding for AIDS services. AIDS advocates continue to be disappointed by the fact that the

likely budget will not include substantial increases for prevention activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 40,000 people become infected with HIV each year. That number is increasing among young blacks and Hispanics, principally men having sex with men.

Clinton also is proposing a \$1 billion increase in total funding for research at the National Institutes of Health. That is a little more than 5 percent above its current budget. It is more than the likely increase in the cost of living but less than the rate of inflation in health care. By contrast, last year the president asked for a 2

percent increase for NIH and the Republican-controlled Congress passed a 15 percent increase.

Another Clinton initiative is a \$3,000 tax credit for those taking care of someone who is severely disabled. That could have a significant financial impact upon lesbians and gays who care for their ailing partners. However, details of the program remain to be worked out. There is a significant possibility that LGBTs will not be included within the definition of those who are eligible for the benefit, just as they were not specifically included in the original draft of the government's health master plan, Healthy People 2010. ▼



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Green lesbian runs for Oakland City Council

by Katie Szymanski

First and foremost, Rebecca Kaplan wants all Oakland residents to know that they are eligible to vote for her in the March 7 election. While most City Council candidates are running in a particular district – whereby only the residents of that district may vote for that seat – Kaplan and five others are running for the “at large” seat, chosen by the city’s entire voting population.

“At large means no matter where you live you can vote for that seat,” said Kaplan. “This is the one time you can cross those boundaries.”

That said, Kaplan would also like to emphasize that hers is a candidacy built on Green Party progressive politics and a solid record of public service and government involvement.

“Often the feeling with progressive candidates is, ‘Do you actually have skills and abilities?’ I want to make clear that I am not running as a protest vote. This is not a symbolic progressive candidacy. I have both the training and experience to be an effective and dedicated council person.”

Kaplan hopes to be the first openly gay or lesbian person

elected to the Oakland City Council, and plans to achieve that based on her record. Beginning in college, Kaplan studied politics and government, got her masters in public policy and then went on to law school. She held a position at the federal public defender’s office, researched and fought for affirmative action, volunteered for Prisoner Legal Services, and worked for a labor law firm. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, she was the project coordinator for the city’s Commission on the Status of Women. In Oakland, where she has lived for the past five years, she served on the Y2K public education project and worked as a field representative for former Green Party and now independent Assemblywoman Audie Bock, meeting with constituents to discuss community issues.

“I’ve been a community activist my entire life,” she said.

As an Oakland city councilmember, she plans to defend tenants’ rights and public transit, local businesses and open government, and of course, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues.

“Right now, the council does not entirely reflect the progressive voice of Oakland,” said Kaplan. “There’s a general hostility toward tenants’ rights, we still have a

medical waste incinerator [the only one left in the state], and while the council is not actively anti-gay, there’s nobody there to fight for our priorities and the allocation of resources.

“I’m very connected with the political process here, and I know I can make a contribution. That’s my message,” said Kaplan.

Kaplan also carries the message to defeat Propositions 21 and 22 on the March 7 ballot.

“It’s very important that we register to vote by February 7 and go to the polls to defeat these measures. The forces of hate are at it again with these propositions, threatening to discriminate against gay people with the Knight initiative, and incarcerate thousands of young people with Proposition 21.”

Above all, Kaplan wants to put the Green Party’s belief in a people-first government to use.

“The most prominent complaint against the incumbent (real estate developer Henry Chang) is that he’s inaccessible. Our council pays a full-time salary, and I will pledge not to hold a competing job. People have a right to expect that.”

Kaplan has received the endorsements of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the National



Rebecca Kaplan

Women’s Political Caucus, author Noam Chomsky, former Oakland City Councilmember Wilson Riles Jr., the Oakland Tenants’ Union, and author and Good Vibrations owner Carol Queen, among others.

To get involved in the campaign, interested people should call (510) 465-5193. Like any good political lesbian, Kaplan has a Tracy Chapman song blaring from her answering machine.

“Hunger only for a taste of justice, hunger only for a world of truth,” is the greeting on Kaplan’s campaign phone line.

“That is what I’m committed to,” she said. ▼

Visit Rebecca Kaplan’s campaign website at www.rebecca-at-large.org.

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- 48-week study
- Free labs and study medication

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CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

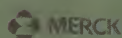
■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor. For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

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Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T) Isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Imperial Court candidates shine



San Francisco Imperial Court candidates, from left, Stern, Suzie Wong, and John Carrillo were all smiles last Friday, January 28, at the formal presentation of candidates at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway. Wong is the only candidate for Empress, while Stern and Carrillo will duke it out for the title of Emperor. Voting takes place February 19, with the Coronation set for February 26.

New Hampshire shocker

by Bob Roehr

Shock waves from the New Hampshire presidential primary continue to roll over the political landscape. Al Gore has moved a long way toward nailing down the Democratic nomination. While John McCain's stunning margin of victory over front-runner George W. Bush points toward a long struggle for the Republican nod. All of this came with unexpectedly high turnout Tuesday, February 1.

Gore's 52 to 47 percent margin was not overwhelming but it was enough. Bill Bradley had to win New Hampshire, a state in the northeastern bedrock of his support where he polled well. But he did not. The former New Jersey senator has the financial strength to remain a candidate, while Gore may well bump against federal spending limits. Still, in many crucial ways the race is effectively over. Gore has superior organizational support and his command of the "super delegates" of party officials gives him a virtually insurmountable lead.

Bradley apparently sought gay and lesbian votes. His articulation of favorable positions forced Gore to compete with his own shifts to more pro-gay policies. That may continue as long as the nomination is viewed as competitive. But soon Gore will begin to look past the primaries to position him for



Bill Bradley

the general election. He will be speaking less of gay issues as he moves towards the middle of the political road.

McCain trounced Bush by a margin of 49 to 31 percent. He won most sectors of the electorate — registered Republicans, independents who could vote in that primary, and all age groups. The only group he did not carry was arch-conservatives.

Self-proclaimed candidates of the far right wallowed in the single digits. The Family Research Council's Gary Bauer drew a mere 1 percent. Alan Keyes, who came in a strong third in the Iowa caucuses, drew about the same number of votes in New Hampshire,

but with a larger turnout that meant 6 percent of the total. Steve Forbes, after his second-place showing in Iowa and millions of dollars spent on advertising, talked of winning New Hampshire. All of that bought him 13 percent of the vote.

It is instructive that the Republican candidates with the most *laissez faire* attitudes toward gays polled 80 percent of that primary vote, more if one includes Forbes.

Bush's strength has been that the Republican Party wanted a winner and he seemed to be a winner. That perception led to early endorsements and a mountain of campaign contributions. But Forbes's strong second-place finish in Iowa and McCain's huge victory in New Hampshire have tarnished that aura. It has shown that Bush is vulnerable. As the *Manchester Union Leader* editorialized the day after the election, "The emperor has no clothes."

The good news for the community is that gay-bashing is no longer an acceptable tactic, and the Christian Coalition is no longer a dominate force. The elections are being played out in the political center. Furthermore, gays and lesbians are working openly in all of the four major campaigns. While some campaigns are more welcoming than others, LGBTs do have a seat at the table in all of them. That has never happened before. ▼

Flight 261

◀ page 1

San Francisco's gay community that many now have second homes in the small Mexican port city. Flight 261, the only San Francisco-bound flight out of Puerto Vallarta that flew directly to San Francisco International Airport in the afternoon, leaves the resort spot at 3:30 p.m. Mexico time, and arrives in the city shortly past 5 p.m. It normally carried many gay and lesbian passengers; often people heard the flight number, 261, mentioned during conversation in Puerto Vallarta's restaurants and bars among San Franciscans, meaning, of course, that they are returning to the city on the long-scheduled and long-rec-

ognized Flight 261.

The Associated Press reported that Toni Choate, a transgendered woman, was the former owner of the Savoy bar in Santa Clara. About a year ago, she moved to San Francisco.

Wayne Friday, the *Bay Area Reporter's* political editor, said he frequently visits Puerto Vallarta, having twice been there this winter. "I always took the '261' and I've never been on that flight that I didn't personally know several, sometimes as many as a dozen or so from San Francisco's gay community who were also on the flight; it's the favored flight out of Puerto Vallarta to San Francisco among the community," said Friday.

Friday told the *B.A.R.* that when he returned from one of his two December trips to the Mexi-

can city, he not only knew one of the crew members, a gay man from Seattle, but shared the flight with one of the city's best known political consultants and his friend, a lesbian member of the city's Board of Education and her partner, two gay bar owners from the Castro and one of their bartenders, and two young male lovers who introduced themselves to him as having been on their "honeymoon."

Puerto Vallarta, with numerous gay hotels, excellent restaurants that cater to the community, and gay bars, has become one of the most popular Mexican vacation spots for the local gay community and the three-hour, nonstop Alaska Airlines service made Flight 261 the favored form of transportation for many visitors. ▼

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'I'm just a mom'

Judy Shepard speaks against Knight in SF

by Terry Beswick

Judy Shepard is not a seasoned campaign spokeswoman, and she repeatedly apologized as she faced a phalanx of reporters, photographers, and television cameras in a San Francisco hotel conference room last Thursday, January 27.

"I'm just a mom," she said, explaining her apparent nervousness, and why she was so far from home, and so far out of her element. "I'm a mom who had a gay son."

The mother and self-described housewife from Casper, Wyoming was appearing at the first of a series of events throughout California to help defeat Proposition 22 on the state's March 7 presidential primary ballot.

"I don't live here, I don't vote here, but I do have an opinion," said Shepard. "I'm given my chance to express my opinion."

The Knight initiative/Proposition 22 would change state law to prevent same-sex couples in California who might someday be legally married in another state

from enjoying the rights and privileges of marriage conferred on heterosexuals by state law here.

"I'm speaking out against the Knight initiative/Proposition 22," Shepard said. "It seems to be exclusive rather than inclusive, and we're all part of the family of man ... The gay community cannot fight this alone."

Shepard's son, Matthew, was 21 and a freshman at the University of Wyoming in October 1998 when he was robbed, pistol-whipped, and left alone, lashed to a fence in a dark, freezing Wyoming prairie. Found 18 hours later by a passerby, he never regained consciousness. His mother and father were at his side when he died five days later.

"It may seem like the easiest thing in the world, just to go home and give up, but I can't do that," said Matthew's mom. "My son Matthew died because of ignorance and fear."

The tragedy of Matthew Shepard's murder was to become one of the most celebrated homophobic hate crimes in recent history. The incident is one of three recent hate crimes explored in *Journey to a Hate Free Millennium*, a documentary from New Light Media. The film directors Brent Scarpo and Martin Bedogne, and Mrs. Shepard were featured at a benefit in San Francisco last Thursday that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the No on Knight/Proposition 22 campaign. [See story below.]

Shepard, and many other observers, fear homophobic hate laws like Proposition 22, authored by state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), could lead to more

hate crimes against gays and lesbians, and more legal attacks on gay civil rights, as similar laws have done in other states.

"For young gay people there is a message in Proposition 22 that their lives are not valued, that their hopes for happiness are not worthwhile," Shepard said. "My son had hopes for a loving, committed relationship. Why should that have been denied him?"

Proposition 22, called "deceptively simple in its simplicity," by No on Knight/Proposition 22 campaign manager Mike Marshall, is officially called the "Limit on Marriages" initiative, and it would in effect exclude gay or lesbian couples from being recognized by the state.

"The very idea of same-sex marriages—they don't even exist yet," noted Shepard. "You don't have to be in favor of same-sex marriages to be against the Knight initiative."

Senator Knight's brother was gay, and died of AIDS. And his son, who lives with his lover in Baltimore, also is openly gay, and has publicly spoken out against his father's homophobic campaign. He is currently alienated



Martin Bedogne, left, Judy Shepard, and Brent Scarpo.

from his father.

"Family is the most important thing, and to voluntarily give up a family is something I don't understand, and to split up families is not what life's about," said Mrs. Shepard.

"It's sad that Senator Knight rejected his son. I can't tell you how sad that makes me."

"Pete Knight says his initiative protects marriage, but I can't see how my son threatened marriage, or how his son threatens marriage. As a parent of a gay son, I feel very sorry that he cannot open his heart to the love that he could get from his son," she said. "I feel badly for Senator Knight. I feel badly for his family."

Shepard may have been a little

nervous at Thursday's press conference, but her motives were simple and true as a mother's love for her son, and her very presence was undeniably powerful.

"I would have been the happiest mom in the world if he found someone to share his life with," Shepard said of her handsome young son.

But Shepard is a strong woman, and while she still clearly grieves for Matthew, who was so brutally killed a year and a half ago, since that time she has been on the road and "living out of a suitcase."

"It's not about Matt anymore. I can't do anything to help Matt, but maybe I can do something to help someone else." ▼

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by Cynthia Laird

The gay community and some powerful straight allies joined forces last Thursday, January 27, to raise at least \$250,000 at a San Francisco benefit to fight the anti-gay Proposition 22 on the March 7 ballot.

Judy Shepard, mother of slain gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, was the featured speaker, following the premiere of a new documentary, *Journey to a Hate Free Millennium* at the Regency Building. Film-makers Martin Bedogne and Brent Scarpo also were on hand and spoke before the screening.

But it was Judy Shepard who captured the hearts of the crowd of about 500 people. She received two standing ovations from the predominantly gay and lesbian attendees.

"I don't live here or vote here," Shepard said, "but I do have an opinion."

"I'm speaking here as a mom,"

she said, reiterating a theme she used earlier in the day at a press event in downtown San Francisco. "Family is a most important thing. Families are not defined by a man and a woman, they are defined by people."

She called for a way to educate people about the impact of hate, something the documentary works to accomplish. The film looks at the deaths of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd Jr. in Texas, and the Colorado high school shootings.

Before the screening, some of the city's top gay and lesbian officials and active community members mingled downstairs at the Regency Building, where they heard encouraging words from Mike Marshall, No on Knight campaign manager.

"We have 40 days and 40 nights," Marshall said, referring to the countdown to the March 7 primary. He added that philanthropist Tim Gill recently donated \$250,000 to fight Proposition 22 and Marshall singled out a local

donor who gave substantially. "We would not be here tonight if not for the Levinson family," he said, referring to E*Trade's chief operating officer Kathy Levinson, who with her partner Jennifer contributed some \$300,000 to No on Knight. Levinson was in the audience, but did not speak.

Marshall said the campaign has purchased television time for commercials, but the campaign still needs money.

He also praised San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, who has been relentless in campaigning against Proposition 22. "His sense of vision has been instrumental," Marshall said.

For his part, Leno addressed the audience upstairs before the screening and noted that every hour of every day in America, there are hate crimes committed against LGBTs, African Americans, Jews, Latinos, and Caucasians. "Race, religion, and sexual orientation inspire most hate crimes," Leno said. "We're here tonight to make a connection between a hate free America and the Knight initiative. It is all the same; the Knight initiative is hate."

Leno said that state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), the initiative's author, should be "highlighting our similarities," rather than dividing people.

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and the Reverend Cecil Williams also spoke out against the Knight initiative, as did television star John Dye, from *Touched by an Angel*.

Tom Baumgartner, No on Knight's major events coordinator, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that last week's benefit was a success thanks in part to event co-chairs Brown and Eunice Azzani, with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. He also acknowledged support from the Regency Building and Taste Catering. The event was announced in December, and organizers had just six weeks to put it all together.

"It was a brilliant success, we're thrilled with the outcome," Baumgartner said. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

No on Knight activities calendar for No. California

compiled by Terry Beswick

Get out of the house and into the community to help defeat the Knight initiative, Proposition 22 on the March 7 ballot. Following is a list of upcoming activities.

Fundraising and other events

Saturday, February 5, 4-7 p.m.

NOK Fundraiser & Rally
Pegasus Hall, Monte Rio,
Sonoma County

Saturday, February 5, noon-2 p.m.

NOK Family Speakout
Co-sponsored by NOK and Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, all LGBT parents invited to speak out.
City Hall, Room 278

Friday, February 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

ACLU Gallery Fundraiser
Women Artists Gallery,
San Francisco

Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.-4 a.m.

"Promise," NOK fundraiser: cocktail party, fashion show, and dance party, featuring six local designers, and male, female, and transgender models.
177 Townsend Street,
San Francisco
\$20 advance tickets available at (888) TIX-ONLY

February 11-13, on National Freedom to Marry weekend "Solidarity Sabbath,"

special NOK services
For participating Bay Area churches, temples, and synagogues, call Cheryl Deaner of All Our Families Coalition at (415) 681-1960.

Sunday, February 13, 7-10 p.m.

Yes on Romance, No on Knight! Fundraiser
Harvey's in the Castro,
San Francisco

Tuesday, February 22, 6-10 p.m.

Gala & Cabaret with
Cybill Shepherd
Mecca, San Francisco
(\$500/\$1,000)

Except where noted, for more information on events, call the No on Knight/No on Proposition 22 state headquarters at (415) 227-1020. Or visit www.NoOnKnight.org, where direct donations may also be made.

NOK calls for volunteers throughout Northern California

San Francisco and Peninsula

Bar crawls: Fridays & Saturdays, 10 p.m.-midnight
(ends February 19)

Phone-banking: Sundays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., San Francisco ACLU, 1663 Mission Street at South Van Ness Avenue

Precinct walking: Saturdays & Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., meet at NOK Headquarters, 505 Howard at First streets, San Francisco

Tabling: Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., meet at NOK Headquarters, 505 Howard at First streets, San Francisco

Phone-banking: Mondays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Machinists Hall, 1784 Rollins Road, Burlingame.

East Bay

Phone-banking: Tuesdays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.,

Oakland NOK Field Office, 560 20th Street, between Telegraph and San Pablo

Tabling: Saturdays, beginning at 10 a.m., 3242 Grand Avenue, next to Grand Lake Theater
BART Action: February 14-18, 7-9 a.m., and 5-7 p.m., many volunteers needed to cover all 29 East Bay BART stations
To sign up, call Mike Clune at (510) 643-2262 (days), or (510) 540-1191 (evenings)

South Bay

Phone-banking: Sundays, 3-7 p.m.; and Mondays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., 2431 Park Boulevard #B102, Palo Alto

Phone-banking: Mondays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., 2960 North First Street near Orchard Parkway, San Jose

Phone-banking: Sundays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Santa Cruz locations (call South Bay contact below for weekly site)

North Bay

Phone-banking: Mondays through Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Marchandt Realty, 2144 4th Street, San Rafael.

Sacramento

Phone-banking: Mondays through Thursdays, 5:15-8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sundays, 2-9 p.m., 2028 K Street at 21st Street, Sacramento

Precinct walking, bar crawls & tabling: any time, any day, pick up materials at NOK office at 414 12th at E streets, Sacramento

For more information, call these NOK regional contacts:
East Bay: Peggy Moore (510) 869-2214, (510) 321-5362.
South Bay: Ross Nakasone (408) 266-9687. **Sacramento:** Donatina Mastropieri (916) 447-3205, (916) 819-3493. **San Francisco & elsewhere:** Esperanza Macias (415) 227-1020.

Gray Davis

◀ page 1

have stated their unequivocal opposition to the controversial initiative long before it was comfortable to do so.

Indeed, Davis is the last elected Democrat of statewide stature to publicly oppose the measure authored by conservative Republican Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), following in the footsteps of Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, both of the state's U.S. senators, a large chunk of its congressional delegation, and much of the state Legislature. Even Republicans, such as Congressman Tom Campbell, came out early against the initiative, often viewing it as another form of government intrusion.

While the No on Knight campaign, the California Alliance for Pride an Equality and other Proposition 22 opponents praised the governor for issuing his much-anticipated statement, most recent polls continue to reveal a demand for pro-active leadership on Proposition 22, with the majority of the state's voters still supporting it. Like Davis, Gore, Bradley, and most other politicians who oppose the Knight initiative, California voters are opposed to gay marriage in principle, and are not yet clearly looking at the larger civil rights issues.

But according to Davis spokesman Michael Bustamante, the governor is not expected to suddenly take on a high-profile role against Knight. With one paragraph, Davis has apparently made his contribution. "There's nothing beyond that," Bustamante told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I don't think the governor's made any decisions on what he'll be doing."

"Whether he's going to do more, we don't know," said Tracey Conaty, spokeswoman for No on Knight. "Would we like him to do more? Sure." ▼

Community Forum

Review of the 7th National Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections

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- Thomas J. Coates, PhD
- Marcus A. Conant, MD

FEATURED PRESENTERS

- Warner Greene, MD, PhD: Pathogenesis
- Ruth M. Greenblatt, MD: Treatment Update (and focus on special issues for women)
- Carl Grunfeld, MD, PhD: Lipodystrophy and related issues
- Robert M. Grant, MD, MPH: Resistance Testing
- Ben Cheng, MS: Hepatitis C/HIV Co-Infection
- John Curd, MD: Vaccine Development

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**HIV conference
opens in San Francisco**

by Bob Roehr

The therapeutics arena has become extremely complex, with 14 approved drugs that can be used in various combinations to treat HIV," said Dr. Constance A. Benson. "We have to take steps back a little bit to look at some of the long term consequences of the therapies we are using."

The chair of the world's premier meeting of AIDS scientists, the seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, made those remarks to the press on Sunday, January 30. Benson said that much of the discussion would be around "refinements of drug combinations" and "the complications of those therapies."

The conference drew 3,200 researchers, a third from overseas, for four intense days of presentations and discussion in San Francisco. The meeting was held in Chicago the last two years and prior to that in Washington, D.C. Benson said that 1,700 abstracts were submitted for presentation but there was room to accept only half. Of those, most were "poster sessions" and just 122 were oral presentations.

Benson admitted, "We don't know when is the most appropriate point in time to intervene in the progression" of HIV. The power of existing therapies to limit viral replication is being balanced by a growing knowledge of risks and toxicities associated with long term use of those drugs. She is "more comfortable not immediately starting therapy in early stages of disease. But that comment is qualified by a lot of individual characteristics that get taken into consideration."

AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho, vice chair of the conference, focused his remarks on more basic research. He said that current drugs work on the reverse transcriptase and protease functions of the virus life cycle. This is the first meeting that will devote significant time to "fusion inhibitors," which block viral entry into the cell, and integrase inhibitors, which attack the other major stage of viral replication.

"The flavor of this year on the therapeutic side is structured treatment interruption," said Ho. The concept gained credence last



Dr. David Ho

year with initial data presented by Dr. Franco Lori, a researcher who splits time between Georgetown University and a lab in Italy. Several other researchers have found tantalizing support for the approach, though in a very limited number of patients over a short duration of time. Much of that data was presented at a "late breaker" session on February 2.

Benson cautioned, "This is a concept that has not yet been proven. These are careful studies that should be done in very careful, very controlled settings." They are not for patients or physicians to try in a slapdash manner.

Lipodystrophy

Lipodystrophy — disfiguring redistribution of body fat — is one of the major side effects that is causing patients and physicians to recalculate the costs associated with antiviral therapy.

Australian Dr. David Cooper, one of the first to identify and call attention to the syndrome, said there are "a number of hypothesis about what causes it." Some point the finger at particular drugs, others believe that the virus itself has a long-term impact on human metabolism. Or perhaps it is a synergy of these factors and more. "There is no clear-cut proof of which one it is," he said. "But suffice to say, these changes were not seen before the year of highly active retroviral therapy."

He is presenting research, which will be published later this month in the journal *AIDS*, that focused upon a group of patients with severe lipodystrophy as well as lactic acidosis, a sign of severe

liver dysfunction. "It turns out that nucleoside analogs and protease inhibitors both cause metabolic disturbances," Cooper explained. "It is the intersection of these two toxicities which, I think, has led to a lot of the confusion of this syndrome."

University of California at San Francisco researcher Dr. Carl Grunfeld conceded that specific drugs might have varying degrees of impact upon the appearance of lipodystrophy. But epidemiologic studies "are increasingly pointing towards a length [of time] of infection, duration of treatment, and age as factors in this. In part it may be a success of the therapies" because patients live longer and the effects of HIV upon body metabolism have sufficient time to emerge.

"These changes are seen first in the people that were on the edge, who were in the checkout cue before highly active antiretroviral therapy came on board," Cooper said. Often they had been very heavily pre-treated with nucleoside analogs. But they also were older, and age itself is a risk factor for lipid dysfunction.

Grunfeld illustrated the difficulty researchers face in trying to unravel this mystery. He has seen patients with the same history of drug regimens where one has "buffalo hump," a deposit of fat in the shoulder and neck area, while another has a loss of fat in the neck area. These patterns of events do not easily sort out.

For Cooper, "The problem with implicating one drug versus another is that when the protease inhibitors were added, sometimes the nucleosides were switched around." He is afraid that some drugs were at the wrong place at the wrong time and may be blamed for problems that accrued over a period of years [while] on other drugs. "Just because you are taking it sometimes implicates it, but it doesn't mean there hasn't been cumulative damage."

But when pressed for a simple rule of thumb, he offered, "The longer you are exposed to a double nucleoside before you add the PI, the more likely you are to get it [lipodystrophy]."

More detailed coverage of conference research will appear in next week's issue.

Town hall AIDS meeting in Redwood City

by Marv. Shaw

Vital new information on HIV/AIDS will be presented at a town hall meeting this Wednesday, February 9, in Redwood City. Sponsored by AIDS service organizations in San Mateo County, the forum's organizers plan to address the latest information presented at the seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections that just wrapped up in San Francisco.

"Information about AIDS is changing more rapidly than ever," said Michael Edell, executive director of the AIDS Community Research Consortium, one of the organizers. "Our community often has more questions than we have answers. Town hall meetings like

this are vital in keeping the community informed about the most current information available. This will be a stimulating program for our community to learn the latest about HIV and AIDS."

Topics to be covered in addition to information from the conference include what's new with HIV treatments.

"New HIV treatments have given us hope. However, we must not be lulled into a false sense of security that the epidemic is over," Edell said. "The truth is that there is still no cure and no vaccine. There continues to be much work to do in AIDS research, education, and prevention, outreach, treatment, and care."

ASOs throughout San Mateo County will join forces to make the free program available to the

public. Along with ACRC will be the San Mateo County AIDS Program, San Mateo County Health Services Agency, Bread of Life Worship Center, the AIDS Hepatitis Prevention Action Network, Inc., ELLIPSE Peninsula AIDS Services, Mental Health Association, Free at Last, and Nuestro Canto de Salud.

Scheduled speakers include AIDS experts Dr. Dennis Israelski, from the San Mateo County AIDS Program, and Luther Brock Sr., ACRC's coordinator of community education and outreach. Brock recently was appointed as the Bay Area's only representative to the subcommittee community liaison at the seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

"It's important that the com-

next page ►

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of

Thomas Joseph McGuire

Thomas Joseph McGuire passed away in San Francisco on January 20, 2000, at the age of 66, after a short illness. Son of Rosemary Gorman McGuire and the late John Francis McGuire; brother of John W., Robert G., Virginia, and William F. McGuire; brother-in-law of Colette and Kelly McGuire and the late John Phyllis, all of Chicago; and uncle of many nieces and nephews. Also survived by many other friends and loved ones. Resident of San Francisco since 1962. Retired from California State Automobile Association.

Served in the U.S. Army 1954-1956. Former Music Director and Organist at Saint Boniface Parish in San Francisco. Member of the Organ Historical Society and the Reed Organ Society and past member of the American Guild of Organists. A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 5, 2000, at noon, at Saint Boniface Catholic Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. Donations may be given to Mercy Charities Housing California, 1038 Howard Street, San Francisco 94103, to establish a Thomas McGuire Memorial Music Fund to benefit children of low-income families, or to the charity of your

choice. Arrangements by Neptune Society of Northern California.

Robert Baldock

December 6, 1959 - January 26, 2000



A San Francisco resident for 20 years, Robert Baldock died of AIDS-related complications. Born and raised in Winnipeg/Manitoba Canada, Robert moved to San Francisco in 1979 and worked for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation until the early 1990s. As a dedicated member of the AIDS community, he leaves friends, and the work he loved, as the accountant for Under One Roof. Robert was known for his dry wit, soft-spoken demeanor, and caring personality. He is survived by his partner, Paul Margolis; good friends Harold Maglaris and Tim Winn; family in Canada, and colleagues at Under One Roof. Remembrances can be made in the form of donations to Under One Roof, in Robert's name.

John Alexander Sapienza

Born June 5, 1947. Passed into the Light on January 18, 2000. John was a much-loved client at the I.D. (Infectious Diseases) Clinic at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Hospital. He



was a man with a generous heart who cultivated numerous friendships at the V.A. Hospital, both among hospital staff members and amongst fellow clients.

For a number of years, John had waged a very valiant battle against AIDS. He was definitely a fighter, not a quitter. John was a man who will always be remembered for having a kind, caring word for everyone; for never whining or complaining; and for bearing his burden with utmost equanimity, setting an inspiring example for others.

John will be especially missed by his dearly beloved soulmate Marilyn, whom he had known and loved for many years. John is survived by his beloved mother, Josephine Penise, to whom he was eternally grateful for teaching him to dance at a very young and tender age. John danced his way into the hearts of all who knew him.

A memorial service was held at the Ft. Miley Veterans Administration Hospital Chapel on January 25, 2000. John will be deeply missed by many friends and relatives. Such a rare and exemplary soul as John's comes along but rarely and is surely a rare gift to those fortunate enough to have known him and been touched by his humor, his very infectious joy, and the spontaneity that made him such a great pleasure to know.

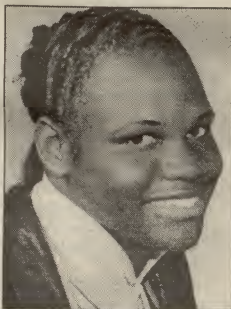
TG activist Charlesetta Holcomb dies at 26

by Cynthia Laird

Charlesetta Holcomb, a family self-sufficiency specialist with the San Francisco Housing Authority, died unexpectedly on January 25 from an undisclosed illness at the age of 26.

Born Charles Holcomb on July 11, 1973, this lifelong public housing resident and native of Bayview-Hunters Point became, as Charlesetta, a respected and beloved role model for diversity and understanding as a transgender housing authority resident leader.

Ms. Holcomb worked in SFHA's diversity training department with social services. She worked with family developments to train the diverse housing authority resident population on how to work together to raise the



Charlesetta Holcomb

quality of life throughout public housing. The department provides a multilingual, multiethnic team working together to address the varied needs of different populations within public housing. "Charlesetta was an outstand-

ing community leader and it is a great loss for the Hunters Point community and for the housing authority," said Ronnie Davis, SFHA's executive director.

A resident of Hunters Point and, more recently, the Potrero Terrace development, Ms. Holcomb was a volunteer precinct leader in the recent campaign to re-elect Mayor Willie Brown. She also worked closely with Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) during visits to inspire public housing residents to take an active role in the political process.

Ms. Holcomb graduated from Paul Revere School and Balboa High School. She is predeceased by her parents, Joyce and Odell Holcomb, and she is survived by her brothers, Mark, Byron, and Darryl, and her sister, Carol.

Funeral arrangements are pending. ▼

Don't forget to register to vote, deadline is this Monday for March 7 primary

by Boyce Hinman, Lambda Letters Project

On March 7, Californians will vote on the Knight initiative, Proposition 22. This is the initiative that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman. It is an attempt to avoid California having to recognize same-sex marriages that might occur legally in another state. Similar anti-gay marriage laws in other states have been used to oppose domestic partner benefits in those states. In any case, a win on the Knight initiative would encourage our opponents to go on the offensive to tear down the other rights and recognitions that queer folk in California have fought so hard to obtain.

The most recent Field Poll shows 51 percent of the voters support the Knight initiative, 40 percent oppose it and 9 percent are undecided. The margin will probably narrow by March 7, but it is obvious that everyone of us

who oppose the Knight initiative must vote if we are to have any chance of defeating this odious measure.

Are you registered to vote? If not you must register to vote by this Monday, February 7. You can obtain voter registration forms by contacting your county registrar of voters. You can find them listed in the government section of your phone directory.

In San Francisco, call the Elections Department at (415) 554-4398; in Alameda County, call the registrar's office at (510) 272-6973.

As an alternative you can call the secretary of state's office at (800) 345-VOTE to obtain the registration form. Those who have Internet access can obtain a copy of the form by going to the address: www.ss.ca.gov. Scroll down to the words "Register To Vote." Then click on the English version or Spanish version to see a copy of the registration form. You can print the form, fill it out and mail it in. The form should be mailed to your county registrar of

voters or it can be mailed to: Secretary of State, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Remember, your form must be received by no later than Monday, February 7 in order for you to vote on March 7.

It is possible to vote by mail. To do this, call your county registrar of voters office to obtain an absentee ballot. Do it soon to be sure you will be able to fill out the form and return it to the registrar of voters before March 7.

Please do not forget to vote on March 7 and urge all your friends and relatives to vote against the Knight initiative. We will not defeat the Knight initiative unless every last person on our side goes to the polls and votes against this proposition. Please do all you can to assure that all the good folk who support us do vote. ▼

Boyce Hinman is the administrator of the Lambda Letters Project. For more information, call (916) 965-6851.

Redwood City

◀ previous page

munity's voice is heard at these national and international HIV conferences. My role is to bring the word home and translate it into everyday language," said Brock.

Presentations will allow ample time for questions and answers. Refreshments will be provided. People can call (650) 364-6563 by February 7 to reserve a seat. ▼

The meeting takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Community Center multipurpose room, 2600 Middlefield Road, in Redwood City.

Bi-national

◀ page 4

told the Bay Area Reporter. "Supervisor Katz took the lead for us in helping to come up with a good resolution."

On Tuesday, Katz arranged for the testimony of same-sex bi-national couples concerning the hardships of the federal immigration policy. Members of couples – some of whom had to hide their faces or testify via videotape from places of hiding – spoke of arbitrary deportation of loved ones, homophobic violence upon deported spouses in their own countries, and enforced separation from their longtime partners. A teary-

eyed committee quickly recommended the resolution and passed it on to the Board of Supervisors.

"It's more than symbolism," Katz told the B.A.R. "It's our city setting the tone for the rest of the country. With change like this, you've got to start somewhere, and San Francisco is the obvious choice to set an example."

The United States' policy falls far behind the world's strongest democracies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, all of which recognize the rights of their citizens to sponsor same-sex partners for immigration. ▼

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Kelly girls

by Jim Provenzano

If you find leathery skin a turn on, if you hate to see the glory given to school football pigs (and convicted felons), if you thought you were a boy when you were really a girl, then here's an event for you.

The San Francisco Cosmos, the Bay Area's newest women's flag football team, are gearing up for the Kelly McGillis Classic, an International Women's Flag Football Tournament in Key West, Florida, with "Pigskin," a fundraising benefit this Sunday, February 6 at the popular El Rio nightclub.

The tournament, named after Tom Cruise's *Top Gun* co-star who's quite popular with the lesbian community (I wonder why?) promises to be a festive event, but the Cosmos need support to pay their travel costs.

Forty teams will be competing at the event, sponsored by the International Women's Flag Football Association, and this is a great way to give the Bay Area team a fiscally sound sendoff.

Emcee and football force Smoov Dawg (aka Rene Van) has

arranged for the entertainment at this Sunday's benefit, which includes Bern, who rocks with her Irish-inspired song and storytelling talents.

"She's not just another wimpy chick with a guitar," says Dawn Richardson of 4 Non-Blondes in the event's press release.

Also featured will be the talented Terese Taylor, who has recently returned from her tour of Ireland. The Jacksonvillains, whose self-titled CD hits stores in March, also will be performing.

Drag king extraordinaire Barry White will join Smoov Dawg to serenade the crowd with drawings for fabulous prizes as well.

How did the team get started? According to event organizer Erin Farrell, yep, they recruit.

"I was into the Pride Run one year and a women started talking about it," she said. "She basically recruited us to play football. I'm a runner, but I had a friend that was into football."

Farrell then decided that it was a good way to keep in shape with a few more social opportunities



The Cosmos in action

than her more solitary running. "I've been playing ever since and can't stop now."

It's the social aspect that keeps her interest. "Football takes different types of people," she said. Each player isn't like everybody else. "There has to be a variety of people."

Not usually a team sport player, she ran in her native Massachusetts, and competed in gymnastics.

Farrell calls her team "a complete contrast to (male) pros," although she noted that the organizers of the league have a goal of professionalizing women's flag football.

Eight on eight are the revised numbers, making for a brisker play by play. There are also no bulky shoulder pads, allowing more freedom of movement.

"It's a really fast game," Farrell said. "We don't tackle, don't wear the bulky equipment, so we're not weighed down."

The Cosmos have two unofficial seasons, in the fall from September to Thanksgiving, then in spring, from March to May.

"This is kind of between seasons," Farrell said. "But we figure it's a good way to start up."

It'll also have an international flair, with European teams arriving from Norway, Sweden and, Farrell joked, "other Danish-type countries."

After their President's Day weekend trip to Key West, the Cosmos' regular season begins.

With games on Sundays at the polo fields in Golden Gate Park, there's plenty of gal action to enjoy. They usually play most of the morning and afternoon, with

the first game at 9 a.m., the last game starting at 1 p.m.

How does her team stand up against the competition?

"We actually did well last time," she said. "We came in fourth in the finals. Pretty good for a first team."

And although the team is formed for the upcoming tournament, pick-up games always take place, leaving opportunities for newcomers. ▼

Pigskin takes place at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street at Precita, Sunday, February 6 starting at 6 p.m. For more information on the sport (including a photo gallery, national rankings and info on the women's football museum in development), visit the International Women's Flag Football Association's website at www.IWFFA.com. You can listen to a sample of the performers' music at www.teresetaylor.com and www.thejacksonvillains.com.

Got a sports event or benefit coming up? E-mail homoep@pachell.net or snail mail moi at the B.A.R., 395 9th Street San Francisco, CA 94103.



In and out

In pro baseball news, chaw-spittin' bigot John Rocker got laid off for a whole month. Gee, think of all the baseball playing he'll miss, it being February. Seriously, Rocker was suspended until May 1, fined \$20,000, and ordered to undergo sensitivity training for his racist and homophobic comments in a magazine article published last month.

— Jim Provenzano

Dykeotomy

◀ page 10

What was "our great game" about when Indians shortstop Jolbert Cabrera was forced to sport a short turquoise chiffon dress and a red party hat? A purse on right shoulder too. According to *Sports Illustrated*, all Cleveland Indians rookies are "made to dress in drag per Tribal tradition."

Hey, commissioner, what do you think the psychological evaluators would say about that one? Might there be some connection to draw between, say sexism and homophobia, when efforts to humiliate, taunt, and put the rookies

in their place take the form of dressing the men as women?

But let's not limit our examination of bigotry to baseball. As the clock wound down on the recent NFC Championship Game, some St. Louis Rams headed toward the Tampa Bay sideline taunting the losing Bucs. Push came to shove and some players had to be separated. Tampa Bay's Frank Middleton unleashed his anger at the classless Rams display by attributing the bully-like behavior to (are you ready?) femininity!

After the game, Middleton reportedly said, "when you win a game and run on the other team's sideline and try to pick fights and talk trash and throw hats at 'em, to

me that's bull. If you're a man, you wouldn't do it. But I guess they're playing with a bunch of girls, and they just don't know how to win."

Since when is that kind of in-your-face taunting attributed to "a bunch of girls"? Rather, the remark is one that can only be attributed to a person who vilifies something by casting it as the other — in this case a grown man denigrating something by identifying it as young and female. Shall we order up another psychological evaluation?

Since we all know that it's only a skip and a jump between casting men as women and casting them as gay, we might want to take a look at the world of jump shots, the NBA. Well, how much psycho-

logical study does it take to understand the bigotry behind the motivational technique revealed in *Esquire* magazine of the trainer who shouts "Jump, faggot!" at Sacramento Kings guard Jason Williams during his workout sessions?

So, John Rocker spoke his narrow mind. He's not the first to do so in sport. He won't be the last. Regardless of what he learns at sensitivity training, I suspect that Rocker's arm — not his mouth — will determine his career in baseball. As for his attitudes, he may choose to keep them to himself, he may even learn to open his mind. He could even have a change of heart.

And this is the year that my Red Sox will win the World Series. ▼



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HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital at 900 Hyde Street in San Francisco.

For more information, please call

* Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215.

HEALTH RESOURCES

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Send health resource listings to:
Community Health
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395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ADD Support Group

Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Health Project

Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Support Group

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1581.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese.) Info: 800-660-1993.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 467-1616.

Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cancer Support Group

Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info call Brian at 422-2137.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV + gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8314.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Full Circle Community Counseling

We offer low-cost services which support, encourage, and challenge people to realize their unlimited potential. Take the step to go beyond the pain of your past to experience the freedom of who you really are. Offices in SF and the East Bay. 255-0100.

Galeamas

Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Men's STD/VIC Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic

Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing, provided conveniently in the evening at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632

Healing Alternatives Foundation

Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 634-4100.

HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group

In the South Bay, meets second and fourth Wed. of each month, 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. Info: Pat Duffy, (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group

Medication for those with HIV, caregivers, friends, Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lesbian/Bisexual Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Counseling, Low fee/free initial intake. 255-0100.

Mental Health - Team II Clinic

Provides psychotherapy, case management, medications. Specializes in services to the gay and lesbian community. Medical, Medicare, third party insurance accepted. Sliding scale. Part of SF Dept. of Public Health, 298 Monterey Blvd., near Glen Park BART station. Call Stan at 753-8760 for information.

National Association for Visually Handicapped

Helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appls.: 221-3201.

Native American AIDS Project

Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

New Leaf Transgender

Substance Abuse Group Mondays 4-5:30pm. Contact Fred Barrios, 626-7000 x146.

New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTline

Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center

Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Paradigm

Models for enhancing life near death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

The Positive Center

Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO, residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists

Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Resource Center

Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

Project Open Hand

Drop-in for prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource

Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: pc-res@interx.net.

PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men: small, friendly, proactive. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Question HIV

Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Shanti

Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Shanti's El Programa Latino

Provides emotional and peer counseling and practical support to Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. For more information, call 674-4700.

Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward. (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. 8100 Buidies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan

Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transgender in Transition

Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions

Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgender Support Group

Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month, 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project

Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF

Seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

Volunteer haircuts needed

For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Cntr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.

Men: 9am Sat., 7pm Wed; Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

WiCare Hospice

& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

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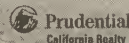
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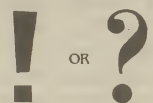
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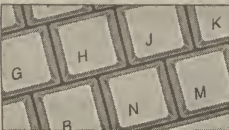
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.237456

The following person(s) are doing business as, Style And Personality, 901 Jarboe Street Apt. #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Bjorngaard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/07/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/07/2000.

JAN. 20, 27, FEB. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.237573

The following person(s) are doing business as, Big Fat Chihuahua Productions, 25 Glendale Street #10, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Bedolla. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/12/2000.

JAN. 20, 27, FEB. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.237600

The following person(s) are doing business as, California Medicinal Resource Services, 2261 Market Street Suite #237 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ronald F. Lter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/12/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/13/2000.

JAN. 20, 27, FEB. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.237575

The following person(s) are doing business as, Rogue Communications, 4441 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Coughenour. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/15/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/12/2000.

JAN. 20, 27, FEB. 3, 10, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.237859

The following person(s) are doing business as, The Sandwich Shop, 635-19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yun S. Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/24/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/24/2000.

JAN. 27, FEB. 3, 10, 17 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238100

The following person(s) are doing business as, Mt. Sunflower, 781 Kansas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Robin Sutherland. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/31/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/31/2000.

FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238024

The following person(s) are doing business as, Fringe Media, Odd Shots Media, Notorious Publications, 584 Castro Street #489, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jim James. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/2000.

FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.237808

The following person(s) are doing business as, Parks Designs, 2525 16th Street #2, East, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Virgil Parks. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/21/87. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/21/2000.

FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2000

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Names of the Applicant(s) is/are: Nasser Adham Ibrahim. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 531 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license(s) Applied for:

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 5 • 3 February 2000



Do clowns make you vaguely uneasy? Does bozophobia keep you from the circus? Are big feet suddenly unenticing when coupled with a red nose?

Guy Caron, former clown and director of Cirque du Soleil's latest extravaganza, wants to make clowns funny again for both grownups and children.

"After seeing *Dralion*, people tell me they've never seen a funny clown before," Caron said. "For me, that's great, because it's taking the circus back to its roots of the real clown, the funny clown."

In *Dralion*, opening this week under the Big Top in the Pac Bell Park parking lot, the clowns mock the very pretensions of the Cirque du Soleil style. "We can laugh at ourselves," Caron said. "When you can see who you are and what you are about, and you can laugh about that, then you can laugh at other things."

Late in the second act, the clowns perform a parody of some of the acts just seen, as well as of the show's elemental unifying theme: air, water, fire, and earth. The burst of self-burlesque

page 41 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Jenni Olson (in Park City) & Roberto Friedman

The Dirt from the Snow: Sundance 2000 is a wrap, and all the weary filmmakers and indie execs are back in their little burrows after ten days of Park City sun and fun. The queer element was visible as ever this year, with no less than 30 GLBT-interested films to see. Top Sundance docs to watch out for include Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's *Paragraph 175*, a chilling historical account of gay survivors of the Nazis in WWII, which won this year's Directing Award in the Documentary Competition; Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, about the incredible life of the weepy evangelist; and Deborah Hoffman and Frances Reid's *Long Night's Journey Into Day*, a brilliantly made documentation of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, which won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary Film.

In the narrative realm, the big boys to watch out for are: Greg Berlanti's gay white West Hollywood ensemble comedy, *The Broken Hearts Club*, and Patrik-Ian Polk's gay black West Hollywood ensemble comedy, *Punks*. Jamie Babbit's lesbian romance *But I'm a Cheerleader* (starring Natasha Lyonne and bad girl Clea Du-

vall) should hit screens in a few months from Fine Line Features, and the queer sleeper surprise of the fest, *Chuck and Buck*, will be brought to you by Artisan Entertainment (the folks who grabbed *Blair Witch* last year).

Other notable items are *Songcatcher*, which won Outstanding Ensemble Performance ("I smell Oscar"); and Karyn Kusama's sweaty Latina Rocky, *Girlfight*, which shared the trophy for Best Drama and won the Directing Award in the Dramatic Competition.

In the Shorts category, the Honorable Mention was split nine ways. Among those acknowledged were two queer tidbits to look for at this year's Frameline fest: *Darling International* and *Hitch*.

Enough about the films, we want dirt! Queer icons in attendance this year included Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche, in town for the premiere of Anne's short, *Reaching Normal*, which screened on Ellen's birthday. Jodie Foster showed up to introduce *Waking the Dead*, which she executive produced, and was spotted at the afterparty showing off baby pictures to pal Holly Hunter. Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner and entourage dropped in on the annual queer brunch, as did Dirk Sheaffer (*Man of the Year*), who was there to schmooze his latest project, and Guin Turner, promoting her and Mary Har-

ron's hilarious adaptation of *American Psycho* (which brought on a seizure for one shook-up journalist at the screening).

Boys Don't Cry producers Christine Vachon and Eva Kolodner were off to LA that morning to get ready for the Golden Globes, and returned to Park City triumphant the next day with star Hilary Swank having scored



Hilary Swank as Brandon Teena

the Best Dramatic Actress trophy for her turn as Brandon Teena. Monday's *Daily Variety* insisted on a snarly dig at Swank's acceptance speech, in which she dedicated her performance to Brandon Teena, "who in fact was female Teena Brandon," said *Variety*. Swank went on to explain, "I said it that way for a reason. What I was trying to do was honor what Brandon was when he died."

Also stumbling into town from the Globes was bad girl Courtney



Jimmy Stewart has "Miss Torso" in his sights.

Love (starring as Jane Burroughs in *Beat*, a feature about William S. Burroughs's William Tell-inspired shooting of his wife). Love made news for her fracas with a press photog. No word yet about what anyone thought of her performance in the film.

Grand Torso

Back in California 2000, the advance screening of *Alfred Hitchcock's* 1954 classic *Rear Window* at the Rafael Film Center last weekend had a very special guest: Georgine Darcy, the actress who played "Miss Torso," the object of voyeuristic photographer Jimmy Stewart's fascination, and the last surviving member of the cast. Though Darcy is now in her early 60s (she turned 18 the day the movie wrapped), she brought along the little white shorts she wore so well in the film, to prove (drumroll, please) she could still fit into them!

"Miss Torso, the Dancer," as Darcy's role is listed in the credits, was fond of prancing around her flat in almost nothing, in front of her windows. "I wore very little, I'll tell you that," she told a reporter from the *Marin Independent Journal*. "I got to wear these little teeny, tiny shorts that Edith Head designed for me. And I wore this little bra top that popped off in one scene. It shot off and landed two feet away. I had to bend over at the waist and pick it up with my rear end to the camera. It was pretty racy."

Perhaps some of Out There's readers relate to Miss Torso's choice of leisure wear and domestic habits. Personally, Out There would be better cast as "Miss Hearing Aids, the Lady Sculptor." Don't miss the BAR's chat, in this issue, with the guys over at preservation and vault services at Universal Studios, who were responsible for *Rear Window's* restoration.

The Talented Mr. Bernstein

This Saturday, February 5, as

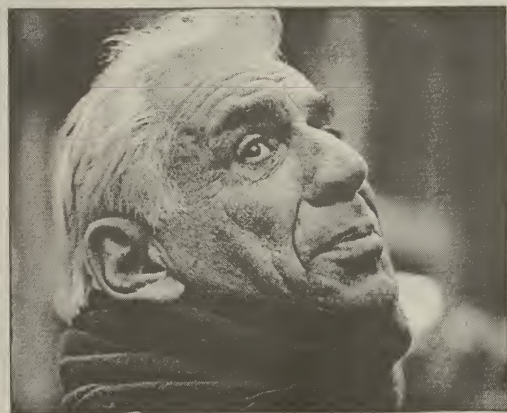
part of the San Francisco Symphony's "Music For Families Series," Jamie Bernstein Thomas, the daughter of legendary composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, will narrate a program that incorporates snippets from her father's most famous works, including *On the Town*, *Candide* and *West Side Story*. The concert takes place at 2 p.m. at Davies Hall. (Call 864-6000 for tickets.)

Leonard Bernstein, *The Last 10 Years*, A Personal Portrait by Thomas R. Seiler (Edition Stemmler) shows to luscious effect a series of photographs of Bernstein at work and at leisure, in concert halls and grand hotels all over the world, during his final years. The candid photos are interspersed with reminiscences of friends and colleagues, so there's emotion and humor. Nothing beats soprano Hildegard Behrens' anecdote of flying with LB from Munich to Zurich on concert tour.

"While Lenny, in his elegant cape with his white silk scarf and silver cigarette holder, took his seat in the front row of first class, I made my way through the curtain into the economy section. Everyone seated already, the curtain suddenly opened and Lenny, peeking through, called out in his smoky voice: 'What's the matter, darling, can't you afford to fly first class?'"

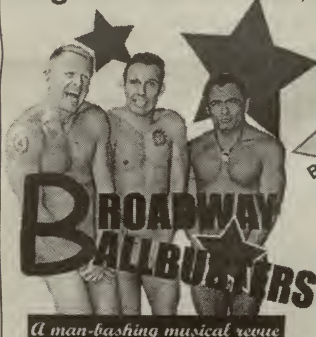
"Swallowing my pride, I answered with a laugh, 'Sure I can, Lenny, but you can't afford to fly economy!' The curtain closed quickly, and we took off."

Since the book is a document of his final appearances and journeys, the photos and stories of last meetings with friends are not without poignancy. In his eulogy, Michael Wager told a story that has since entered folklore: "Even after death he never lost his adoring public. The funeral cortège, complete with police escort, was forced to slow down somewhere in Brooklyn at a construction site, and the hardhats stood there waving, 'Bye Lenny—goodbye Lenny.'" ▼



Leonard Bernstein, photographed by Thomas R. Seiler

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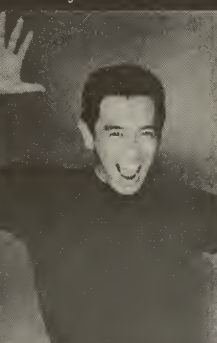


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Rederring on the menu

Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Ruddygore' at YBC

by Robert Julian

Anyone who is new to the light operas of Gilbert and Sullivan could quickly discern the tone of their work by reading the program notes of the Lamplighters' most recent production and discovering that Ruddygore takes place in the mythical Cornish coastal village of "Rederring." At every turn, Gilbert and Sullivan's works provide the equivalent of a musical elbow to the ribcage, with unlimited opportunities for shameless mugging and flamboyant scenery chewing. No play in their repertoire excels in this area quite like Ruddygore.

A send-up of melodrama (which, as an art form, already borders on self-parody) was not a particularly original idea, even when Ruddygore was first produced in 1887. But some 113 years later, the Lamplighters' production of the musical at Yerba Buena Center resonates with elements that recall more contemporary pop culture icons like *Dark Shadows*, *Dracula*, and *Night of the Living Dead*. When you add in a daffy female ensemble of bridesmaids that breaks into a chorus of "Hail the bridegroom, hail the bride" whenever a young couple gets amorous... well, you have some seriously silly business.

The bridesmaids in question languish along the seaside, in a perpetual state of agitation because the lovely Rose Maybud (Karen Tesitor) is without a groom. Both she and the object of

her affections, Robin Oakapple (E. Lawrence Ewing), are too shy to make the first move. Rose consults her book of etiquette on every social situation, and Robin hides a dark secret: he is actually the Baronet of Ruddygore, living incognito. Robin's subterfuge is necessitated by an ancient curse placed on his house. For all eternity, the Baronets of Ruddygore are condemned to commit one heinous crime every day of their lives. By faking his own death, Robin has transferred the curse to his younger brother Despard (Charles Martin).

Foster grants

As Rose and Robin ponder their amorous standoff, who should wash ashore but Robin's long-lost foster brother, Richard Dauntless (John Emery Smyth). Robin asks Richard to take up his cause with Rose, but Richard becomes smitten with the young lady himself. Richard not only woos his foster brother's girlfriend, but he reveals Robin's identity in order to assure his own amorous victory and prevent Robin and Rose's wedding. Robin assumes his true identity and becomes the dreaded Sir Riven Murgatroyd, Baronet of Ruddygore. In the play's second act, his daily crime duties are neglected until the ancestral portraits in the family castle come down to lecture to him, and things get even more complicated — if that is possible.

Those who perform and attend Gilbert and Sullivan light operas become like an extended family, united by their love of musical

silliness and live performance. But the familial nature of the Lamplighters' collaborative efforts does not stand in the way of professionalism. The performance standards in Ruddygore are first-rate, with lovely voices and excellent diction, something that is essential if Gilbert and Sullivan's work is to succeed on the stage.

Karen Tesitor's Rose is outstanding, and Charles Martin's excellent *basso profundo* voice turns the role of Despard into a star turn. John Emery Smyth brings a nicely modulated tenor voice and sprightly character to the role of Richard, and E. Lawrence Ewing makes a dashing baritone of Robin. Margo Schembre gets the scenery-chewing prize for her Mad Margaret, and her vocal abilities combine beautifully in "The Matter Trio" in the second act.

Although Ruddygore is not Gilbert and Sullivan's strongest play, it is certainly one of their most idiosyncratic. And in the all's-well-that-ends-well tradition which characterizes their operas, the play finishes with frustrated lovers reunited and every conflict resolved. The Lamplighters, now in their 47th season, are to be commended for their consistently good work. ▼

Ruddygore runs through Feb. 6 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre, 700 Howard St. Call 978-2787.



Meghan Conway and Lawrence Ewing in Ruddygore

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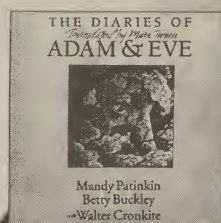
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Composers At Work Forum at Sims Center

by Heidi Beeler

The small gathering of composers, musicians, conductors and a few generic music-lovers hunkered down in folding chairs and listened rapt to a recording of the 1995 Oregon Symphony premiere of Jennifer Higdon's orchestral work *Shine*. The 37-year-old, out lesbian composer, a recent Pew Fellowship recipient and a Guggenheim Fellow, listened intently to the wild cacophony she'd orchestrated of strings rising above timpani, cow bell and tuba, and turned to the audience.

"I call this Concerto for Orchestra on Speed," Higdon confided with a laugh, explaining that a late notification of the commission had left her only six weeks to create and transcribe a full orchestral work, at the same time that her brother had been diagnosed with cancer. "The piece sounds to me like it's grabbing at life. I'm not sure if I'd had three months if it would've sounded that way. I listen to it now, and I don't know where it came from."

The gathering was the Composers At Work Forum, a panel discussion of four contemporary classical composers on their process of creating new music, held at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (JSC) and co-sponsored by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as a part of the Continental Harmony Project. Higdon, who won a na-



Bob Ostertag in *Between Garbage and Science*

tional commission to write an original piece to be premiered by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band at the 2000 Old-Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic at Yerba Buena Gardens, was joined by three Bay Area composers: Carla Lucero, Bob Ostertag and Darcy Reynolds.

Despite the shared label of contemporary composer, it's hard to imagine a more eclectic collection of music scribes. Higdon, a professional flutist and conductor, and a faculty member at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, travels in academic circles and writes technically challenging pieces for everything from solo flute to symphonic orchestra, from mixed choir to sax quartet. Lucero, who has composed music for film soundtracks and dance companies in Los Angeles, is developing the ultimate vehicle for dramatic music: an original opera based on the story of convicted lesbian "serial killer" Aileen Wuornos. Reynolds, director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the American Composers Forum, has focused her efforts on vocal and instrumental chamber music. Perhaps best known for *All the Rage*, his piece about the riots following Pete Wilson's veto of the AB101 gay rights initiative commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, Ostertag — 1995 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Composer's Fellowship — illuminates political issues through sound, combining music, spoken word, digital devices, live recordings, and homemade contraptions scrapped together from cassette recorders and helium balloons.

Craft talk

Different focuses and sound media aside, though, all four shared many of the same experiences around how original music gets crafted. When Charles Wilmoth, JSC director and the panel's moderator, asked how the composers adapt their work for different audiences, all four emphatically denied taking the audience into consideration during the composition process. Even Ostertag, whose political pieces would seem most dependent on delivering a specific idea, insisted that he intentionally avoids writing music to convey a specific message.

"I don't create art in a way that's trying to convince anyone or move anyone in a particular direction," Ostertag said. "I try to find a crucial moment or a crucial sound and try to document it. I start with a crucial sound and explode it into a larger aspect. It's more important to be really true

to yourself, to confront yourself."

Ostertag played a segment of the Kronos Quartet recording of *All the Rage* to demonstrate his concept of using a composition to explode a single sound. In creating this piece, he started with a live recording of the screams and protest chants from the actual street AB101 riot. From the sounds of the voices shouting, cop whistles blowing, and breaking glass, Ostertag transcribed into music the tones these sounds made for the string quartet to play on top of the original recording. Toward the end of the tape, as police cars were set on fire by mobs, a man shouted "Burn!" Ostertag cycles the shout, cutting it off before the syllable is complete, repeating it rhythmically until it becomes one more pure sound.

Reynolds agreed that when composing she doesn't think about the audience, but instead goes into herself when she's writing music. She noted she practices meditation, which she's found complements this process. Perhaps ironic for a writer of sound, she said it means she spends much time at meditation retreats sitting in silence. This practice gives her an awareness of the spaces between notes, and she said she tries to use silence and space in a piece as much as the sound and the rhythm of the notes themselves.

"The process of composing is like the marriage of the technical and the intuitive," Reynolds said. "If there's a sense of self there, it gets in the way. You need to get out of the way of the music to let it come through."

Music animators

If they don't think about the poor fools buying the tickets, whom do they consider when they write music? Higdon noted that she's spent too much time on the front side of a music stand not to think about the performers when she's composing. In fact, all four composers agreed they develop their music around the musicians and vocalists who bring the work alive, often writing for a specific performer much the way Shakespeare created his characters with specific actors in mind.

Ostertag illustrated the point with a recording of a solo piece written specifically for a friend, contrabass vocalist Mark Dresser. The piece explored the wide range of tone and textures that the bass human voice can make, opening with syllables spoken in Darth Vader range, dropping to a guttural frog croak and something like a contrabass belch. Ostertag

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CABARET

Wacky women of song

Christine Ebersole, Claiborne Cary and Maureen McVerry at the Herbst

by Jim Van Buskirk

Christine Ebersole, Claiborne Cary, and Maureen McVerry may not be household names, but cabaret lovers are in for a treat when this talented trio of singers share the stage at the Herbst Theatre on Saturday, February 12. The event, produced by Lawrence Helman, is a fitting follow-up to his co-production last fall of Paula West's sold-out CD-release party, also at the Herbst. Partial proceeds from *Cabaret at the Herbst* will benefit the Robert Louie Family Cancer Support Program, which works to provide emotional support for children with cancer and their families in the Bay Area.

Claiborne Cary is the most seasoned of the bunch; her press release aptly describes her as "salty, sexy, and sixtiesomething." After growing up in a theatrical family (her sister is Cloris Leachman) in Lone Tree, Iowa, Cary moved to New York, where she appeared in Bob Fosse's *New Girl in Town*, *Cabaret* and *Queen of the*



Claiborne Cary

Stardust Ballroom. It's difficult to image the barely 5-foot-tall Cary as a Broadway chorus girl, but in addition to Broadway, she has performed in film and television, and cabaret and jazz clubs like the Cinegrill, the Plush Room and a recent stint at the Algonquin's Oak Room.

Her recent CD *Miss Claiborne Cary: Live* captures Cary at

Danny's Skylight Room in New York. Continually cackling at herself and poking fun at her age, she says it all in what is becoming her signature song, "Too Old To Die Young." Cary's unique swinging style is reminiscent of saloon singers like Frances Faye, Dorothy Loudon and Elaine Stritch as she wisecracks her way through well-chosen novelty songs and sings such soul-stirring standards by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and the Gershwins as "At Long Last Love," "Say It Isn't So," "Looking at You," "Isn't It a Pity" and "The Man I Love." Her moving rendition of "Something Cool," originally recorded by June Christy, makes the listener really understand the narrator's angst. Her timing is impeccable whether she's raucously recounting jokes or sweetly singing songs.

On the CD, Cary croons a couple of her own comic compositions. "I write from experience," she says, "you'd think I'd have written more." Her song "Couch Potato Patootie" chronicles the loss of a lover whom she misses most for his hands: "He was wonderful with software." Later in the evening, she extols the excitement of a "Live Performance." In a set that runs the gamut from self-deprecating humor to poignant torch songs, she also puts her special stamp on Sondheim's overexposed "Broadway Baby."

Tura turn

Christine Ebersole is another Broadway baby, having appeared in *Oklahoma*, *Camelot* with Richard Burton, and *On the 20th Century* with Kevin Kline. She starred in the films *Amadeus*, *Tootsie*, *Richie Rich* and *My Favorite Martian*, and was a *Saturday Night Live* regular in the early



Christine Ebersole

'80s. She stopped the show as Tessa Tura in the Bette Midler version of *Gypsy*, and she will appear in February in the ABC television movie *Mary and Rhoda*. Ebersole's own quirky cabaret show at

the Cinegrill in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel was captured live on CD a couple of years ago.

Whether performing classic torch songs, the tongue-twisting "No Bout Adoubt It," Maury Yeston's poignant "New Words," or Joni Mitchell's classic "The Circle Game," Ebersole, like Cary, is a charismatic performer whose intelligent wit informs both her droll comedy and her musically adept serious songs.

Maureen McVerry, the youngest of the line-up, is also an actress cum singer. She has performed her one-woman show *Verry McVerry* across the country, appeared at the two West Coast Cabaret Conventions and at the tribute to musicologist and sheet music maven Bob Grimes, as well as in local productions of *Pygmalion*, *Oh Kay*, *Born Yesterday* and ACT's *A Christmas Carol*, *The House of Mirth*, and *Schlemiel* the

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Smoke & crystal

Paula West at Plush Room

by Richard Dodds

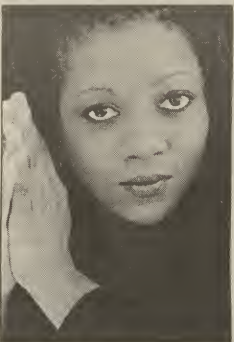
After a prolonged ovation for an unknown song from an obscure unproduced musical, Paula West mumbled a barely audible "Wow," more for herself than for the audience. There are no effusive displays of emotion in West's current show at the Plush Room, and her between-song patter is efficient if sincere. Ah, but the voice...

Over the course of 15 songs, West uses that voice to repeatedly weave a spell, pulling the listener into the song's world with a tone that is a rare blend of smoke and crystal. Her song list favors the unusual over the familiar, but the choices are exquisite. At least they seem so in West's interpretations of pianist Ken Muir's moody arrangements.

As the voice glides precisely and purposefully over every note, West also digs deep into the lyrics, revealing the heart of songs you may not have heard before, and exploring new depths in those that you have. "Trust in Me," a song from Disney's *The Jungle Book*, is hardly kid's stuff in West's hands. And her encore choice of "If I Only Had a Brain," demanded by a knowing audience, becomes unbearably poignant.

West describes the current repertoire as "love from the dark side," but all is not bleak. In "Speaking of Love," an unheralded 1932 ditty by Yip Harburg and Vernon Duke, West consistently nails the clever humor in this goldigger's anthem. She handles "The Snake," Oscar Brown Jr.'s wry look at seduction, with an easy evil. And she lets the humor unfold naturally in John LaTouche and Duke's "Love Me Tomorrow." The lady knows how to treat a song.

The San Francisco singer opened her seven-week engagement to a full house despite, as she



West is 'Speaking of Love'

noted, competition from *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*? Paula West sings like a million, and that's my final answer. ▼

Paula West will be at the Plush Room through March 5. Cover charges are \$20-\$25, with a two-drink minimum. Call 885-2800.



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FILM



John Wallowitch and Bertram Ross as seen in *Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment*, a film by Richard Morris

A more perfect union

'Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment'

by Jay Blotcher

If Andy Warhol were to float down into the Castro these days, to see the frantic and fickle mating habits of Bay Area Gay Man, he'd make another famous dictum: In the future, all gay men will fall in love for 15 minutes. A combination of gym, drugs and neuroses have truly made modern gay relationships a fleeting matter. For those who bemoan this state of affairs, there is hope. The new documentary *Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment*, opening Friday at the Lumiere, is inspiration for the romantically challenged.

This film celebrates the union—both creative and romantic—of songwriter John Wallowitch and dancer Bertram Ross. The formula has worked for 33 years. In show biz terms, this is considered a long-running hit. In the era of battles over gay marriage, Wallowitch and Ross are the ideal poster boys.

An unabashed valentine to the septuagenarians, *Wallowitch & Ross* also chronicles a fascinating era in the New York theatre and the equally dazzling café society. The irreverent Wallowitch began as a Broadway rehearsal pianist and cabaret performer, and his sophisticated songs have been recorded by legends like Tony Bennett and Margaret Whiting. (For New York City audiences, Wallowitch is a cable TV cult figure, the unflappable bow-tied pianist who has been taking midnight call-in requests, telephone sitting on his Baby Grand, since 1980.) The dignified Ross was a painter, a writer and, most famously, dance partner and muse to the imperious Martha Graham for a quarter-century, performing pas de deux with her in the classics *Appalachian Spring*, *Clytemnestra* and *Oedipus*.

When the men were introduced during the mid-'60s, "I was mad for Bertram," recalls Wallowitch with relish, adding, "but not 17-year-old mad." The pair, both having sown their oats and established their respective careers, observed a genteel courtship and then quickly moved in together. By the mid-'80s, they had joined forces on the cabaret circuit, with an act that played off their contrasting sensibilities, as well as their time-burnished affection for

one another. A couple of years ago, longtime friends Richard Morris and Sue Gandy felt the richness of their relationship should be committed to film.

Historic lovenest

Wallowitch was skeptical. "It would never occur to me. Grandiosity is not my [forte]." But with their consent, Morris became director, and Gandy producer of the project. Soon, movie lights and cameras were being hauled into Wallowitch and Ross's Upper East Side apartment, which was formerly a lovenest for theatre great Katherine Cornell and composer Nancy Hamilton.

The pair was decidedly underwhelmed by the test footage ("I looked like the Yellow Horde," Wallowitch grimaces), but they agreed to continue with the filming. In all, 32 hours of film was shot, including classes between the pianist/voice coach with his students, the pair performing in concert, at home reminiscing, and most strikingly, Ross' recollections of his turbulent years with Martha Graham. Longtime friend Dixie Carter's husband, actor Hal Holbrook (who played gay with dignity in the 1974 TV classic *That Certain Summer*), agreed to do a voiceover narration for the film. But when the footage was ultimately edited, it was decided that narration would be superfluous; Wallowitch and Ross had effectively told their own tale.

The film faithfully chronicles their careers, warts and all, although it is a little vague about the work two men must do to maintain a relationship in a society where straights denigrate same-sex relationships and gay men are often equally unsupportive. Wallowitch is quick to respond. Thumbing through a book of movie stars from the Golden Era, he draws a parallel between a successful movie career (he adores Joan Crawford) and a successful relationship. "It takes hard work, like anything else. It's like cabaret performing. It takes intelligence. Use your brain a little bit, not your crotch." Most gay men, he says, assess a lover on physical terms, and then grow tired of him quickly.

Wallowitch is no Puritan, however; he quickly acknowledges that there is a place in life for watching strippers on cable television. But longtime relationships

require another level of understanding and acceptance. "You have to honor the person ... because you only have so much time," Wallowitch grows misty-eyed. For the last six months, his lover, once tall and muscular, has been hospitalized with Parkinson's disease. In the film, one can see its cruel effects limiting the speech and facial gestures of Ross. Wallowitch is attempting to bring him home, where Ross will require around-the-clock care.

While posters depict the couple in a playful smooch, the film seems a bit coy about the true nature of their relationship. For the better part of the fast-moving 77 minutes, the men seem to be stage partners and nothing more. When they kiss onscreen at the end of the film, however, the simplicity and purity of the gesture will evoke tears. Asked why the disclosure of their relationship does not come earlier, the feisty Wallowitch replies, "What am I supposed to do? Take my dick out and wave it in your face?" He adds with appropriate hauteur, "If you have the slightest shred of sophistication, you know what the relationship is from the top."

The film *Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment* has a bitter coda; while its screening is sure to bring a new generation of fans, Ross's illness prevents the pair from carrying on their cabaret show to meet that newfound adulation. Mulling over the irony of the situation, Wallowitch sits down to his living room piano and offers his latest composition, a wry and wistful piece about the loneliness of a late-night bar. This is yet another of the numbers from Wallowitch's songbook, inspired by his love for Ross.

When asked what hopes he has for the film, Wallowitch wisecracks that he hopes the investors will recoup their investment. Turning serious again, he adds that he hopes his 33-year romance with Ross will inspire contemporary gay couples to forge longer-term relationships. But one small matter continues to vex him, Wallowitch says, with a showman's gleam in his eye. "I feel it's very lovely," he deadpans, "but what do you do for an encore?" ▼

Wallowitch & Ross: This Moment runs February 4-10 at the Lumiere Theatre.

Inching forward

Talking with 'Hedwig & The Angry Inch's Stephen Trask

by Gregg Shapiro

When you talk to Stephen Trask, you get the sense that the good things that have happened for him in the past few years are just beginning to sink in and feel real. His off-Broadway rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, for which he wrote the music and lyrics (the play's text was written by John Cameron Mitchell), continues to draw crowds in New York, and also did well in Los Angeles. He is producing an album by one-time-Hedwig Donovan Leitch's band Nancy Boy, and he is preparing for the film version of *Hedwig*. To top it all off, the original cast recording of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* has been nominated for a Grammy Award.

Gregg Shapiro: Congratulations on your Grammy nomination. How do you feel about it?

Stephen Trask: Thanks. It's very exciting. Every time people come up to me and congratulate me, it gets more and more real. I'm producing an album up here in Woodstock, and the other day the drummer came in, and he was so excited. I got chills. It's really kind of thrilling.

What can you tell me about the new album by Nancy Boy that you're producing?

[Lead singer] Donovan Leitch approached me a year ago about maybe writing some songs with him. We dashed one off and never really revisited it. Then I got a call from his management about doing more songs with him. I hung out, met the band — they had all been coming down to see *Hedwig*. We had a good day. I wrote a song for them. Their management and the president of their label, Mammoth, was really

into the stuff I was doing and asked for more songs.

Out of the blue, they said, "Do you want to produce this record?" I only vaguely knew what that meant, but I felt like I had to say yes. So I got on the project and started sifting through old tapes and listening to all of their songs. We talked about which songs of mine they wanted. They also needed me to get a guitar player for them. The first person I thought of was Dean DeLeo, of Stone Temple Pilots. Dean and I had done a *Hedwig* show together in Los Angeles. We had the Stone Temple Pilots as the Angry Inch and we had both Hedwigs, for one night. It was a blast. So I said, "If we're going to spend a lot of money, let's get someone like Dean." So Dean and I kind of joined the band for a few weeks, learning all their songs and teaching them ours, and becoming a four-piece band. Now we're up here in Woodstock, in the Catskill Mountains, in this great recording studio in the mountains, with deer all around.

And the stuff is sounding really good. Donovan is this super, super talent.

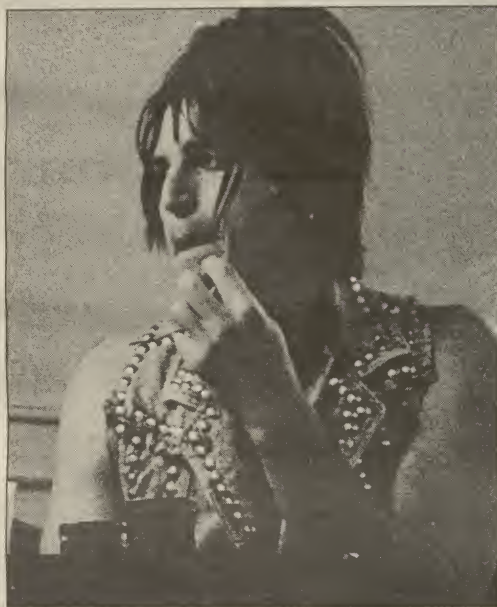
Donovan also played *Hedwig* on stage, right?

Yes. He alternated with Ally Sheedy.

Have any bands or solo performers expressed interest in covering the songs from *Hedwig*?

They don't have to ask me to do it, so somebody could be planning to do it without telling me. Alanis Morissette was a big fan of the show, and I would love to hear her sing "Midnight Radio." She's got that huge voice, and she could really cover all of those notes.

Have you begun work on your next stage project?



Stephen Trask: 'It gets more and more real.'

Not yet. There's definitely one in the future. The only thing I haven't done is make an album of my own, so I think that's my next step. I would love to work with the guys in Stone Temple Pilots on something.

What can you tell me about the status of the movie version of *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*?

I should be getting a near-final script from John [Cameron Mitchell] any day now to read over. We're going to start shooting

in Toronto in late Spring/early Summer.

Will you have the original cast in the movie?

The other guys in *Cheater* won't be in it, since we're not playing together anymore, but Miriam Shor and John and I will be the three front people in the band.

I was wondering about your take on the much-publicized Ally Sheedy period of *Hedwig*.

I'm damned if I do and I'm damned if I don't say anything about that. The only thing I can say is that it's something that we all went into with really high hopes, and I'm sorry that it ended on a sour note.

Is there someone else, like a dream person, that you foresee taking over the role on stage?

Matt McGrath, who's doing it now, is tremendous. There's been some interest from Jon Bon Jovi, and that would be amazing. I think we would be sold out until whenever it is that he decided to stop shaving his chest and putting on a dress. Can you imagine how many people would line up to see Jon Bon Jovi singing in a two-hundred and fifty seat theater? Stripping down to bare nothing after wearing a dress.

It'd be a guaranteed sellout.

They'd be lined up around the block. And he's a very good actor. ▼

Composers

◀ page 32

noted it was hard for him to imagine anyone else performing the piece.

Often considering the musicians — their abilities and range — is a practical necessity for the composers. Although Lucero has written quite a bit of instrumental music, *Wuornos* is her first experience composing for operatic voices. To date, in developing the piece, she's worked with three different casts, and she's had to adapt the ranges and work with the singers for each showcase.

Higdon agreed that writing within the abilities of the musicians is a learning process, and noted that she enjoys writing at the edge of the performers' abilities.

"The first two pieces I wrote, I thought [the musicians] were going to kill me," she said, laughing. A friend of Higdon's, a former pro flute player sitting in the audience, nodded her head without smiling. Higdon's virtuoso flute solo *Rapid Fire* leaps to mind as an example of killer compositions. Imagine *Flight of the Bumble Bee* rewritten for the directed energy of a hummingbird — an urban, leather-jacketed hummingbird who may well be packing iron. The flute voice leaps up and down scales with a violent, percussive articulation, increasing speed into a frenzied flutter



Jennifer Higdon

tongue, and bending, Japanese-flute style, before racing off the top of the scale again. The piece is the best evidence that Higdon is both a percussionist and flutist.

So what does she have planned for the SF L/G Freedom Band for the 4th of July? Higdon said at an open rehearsal with the band last November that so far, she's had requests for solos from a timpani player and a bass clarinet, and the conductor has suggested the piece include a mini-march that can stand on its own to be used at marching events. How that all takes shape we'll have to wait to discover. ▼

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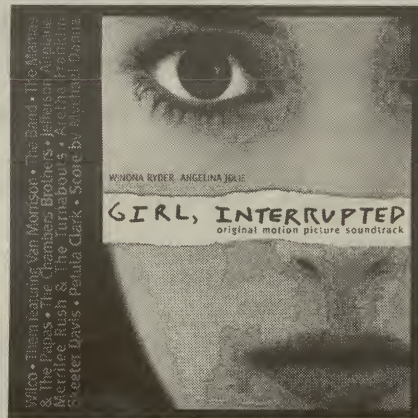
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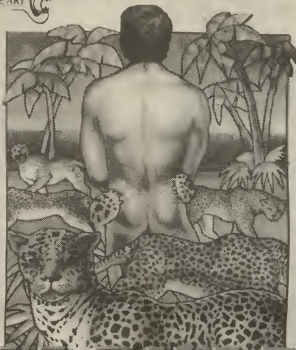
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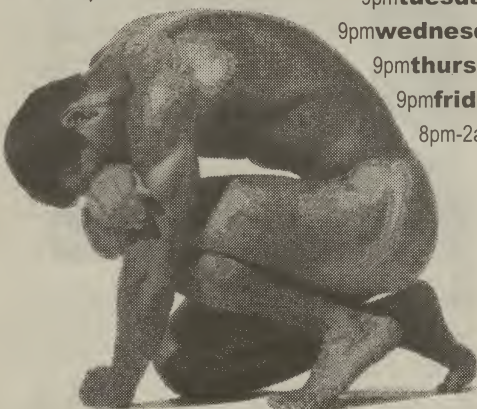


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Seizing simple moments

Kiarostami's 'Earthquake Trilogy' at YBC

by Gary Morris

With the recent death of Robert Bresson at 98, the contest for "world's greatest living director" rages. A small but devoted group believes Iranian auteur Abbas Kiarostami deserves at least to be in competition. Kiarostami, born in 1940 and first active as a filmmaker in the early 1970s, has come out of the shadow world of international film distribution to gain acclaim for such films as *The Taste of Cherry* (1997), *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999), and the *Earthquake Trilogy*: *Where Is the Friend's Home?* (1987), *And Life Goes On* (1992), and *Through the Olive Trees* (1994). The latter film's Palme d'Or award from Cannes, and *The Wind Will Carry Us*'s Golden Lion from the Venice Film Festival didn't hurt.

The *Earthquake Trilogy* is rarely shown in *toto*, due no doubt to the exigencies of finding screen space in the US, where mindless actioners, sappy yuppie dramadies, and gore-drenched pulp carry the day. That's a shame, because these films, alone and in tandem, constitute a major modern cinema achievement.

Trilogies are usually thought of as sequential and tightly integrated variations on a theme. The links in these films are more subtle and playful, with Kiarostami's formal strategies — long shots that go on so long they can induce a hypnotic state in the viewer — and modernist sensibility making the connections.

The first in the series, *Where Is the Friend's Home?*, doesn't even have an earthquake in it, but it introduces characters who recur later, either physically or in the minds of the characters in the other films. And it fixes a time and place, rural northern Iran in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as a springboard for the director's imaginative games.

Where Is the Friend's Home? sounds on paper like a Disney scenario. It's the story of a young schoolboy's attempts to return a lost notebook to one of his pals, to avoid the wrath of the teacher. The obstacles to what seem like a simple action are so strong — family



Bahak Ahmed Poor and Ahmed Ahmed Poor in *Where is the Friend's Home?*

demands, rough terrain, and the boy's ignorance of precisely where his friend lives — that the quest takes on existential and mythic overtones. Kiarostami's painterly eye lays out the bleak landscape of everyday life in haunting detail; in one of the night scenes, the boy watches through an open door as white sheets are whipped furiously by violent winds, typical of the director's ability to seize a simple moment and make it resonate with drama.

Disrupted lives

The second film, *And Life Goes On*, is generally considered the best of the trilogy, and indeed there's much to recommend it. This time, "Kiarostami" (played by an actor) decides to take his son through the earthquake-ravaged area around the village of Koker, to try to locate the two child actors from the previous film. Again, the director's skill with an amateur cast and his apparent ability to restage a large-scale real event (the earthquake killed 50,000 people and devastated much of northern Iran) account for much of the film's power. But the chaos of disrupted lives and a search that seems both endless and hopeless are beautifully balanced by quiet scenes in which the irresistible lure of ordinary life asserts itself.

The film is filled with hope and humor. In a brilliant metaphor for the enduring power of the imagination, one of the villagers who acted in the first film tells "Kiarostami" that his (the villager's) real house was destroyed, while his "film house" — the one used as his house in the first film — survived. There are also witty scenes of self-critique. The same villager complains that what

Kiarostami made in the first film wasn't "art" because he, the villager, was forced to play a man older than himself. "If you make an old man look younger," he observes, "now that's art!"

Through the Olive Trees (1994) completes the trilogy, and this time the earthquake is secondary, discussed only as a memory. This droll mockumentary again uses untrained actors and a film-within-a-film structure to look at the travails of a director (again an actor pretending to be Kiarostami) trying to shoot a film with an uncooperative actress and an actor hopelessly in love with her in "real life." The two bicker endlessly — or more properly, the man hectors the woman, who won't speak to him, in spite of the director's pleas. Hossein Rezaei is superb as the doomed suitor, and the film wrings bitter laughs out of his numbing attentions and teary paeans to a woman who prays for his demise. Balancing this motif are long, loving shots of the Iranian countryside, most resonant in a scene where two characters talk about a gorgeous meadow they're walking through that grew atop a destroyed village.

Some viewers will be taxed by the films' discursiveness and leisurely pacing; attentive viewers will find their reward. If Kiarostami's not quite ready to assume the mantle of greatest living director, give him time. ▼

Kiarostami's *Earthquake Trilogy* will be shown in three parts on three consecutive Friday nights (4, 11 and 18) in February, at the Screening Room at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. For tickets (\$6), call 978-ARTS.

Cabaret

◀ page 33

First.

Individually, these three wacky women offer a wealth of experience with familiar and not-so-familiar ballads, show tunes and novelty numbers. Combined, they're likely to bring down the house. Rumor has it that Helman has talked them into performing together as the specialty strippers in "You Gotta Get a Gimmick" from *Gypsy*. It's anybody's guess which role each singer will essay among Miss Electra, Tessie Turra the Texas Twirler and Miss Mazeppa. That number alone might be reason enough to be at the Herbst on February 12. ▼



Maureen McVerry

Cabaret at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness, is Sat., February 12 at 7 p.m. For tickets (\$25-35), call 392-4400.

MUSIC

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John Adams, Donald Runnicles conduct SFS

by Philip Campbell

Regular patrons of the San Francisco Symphony have come to expect surprising repertoire and an air of electric excitement whenever Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas takes the podium. Recent weeks at Davies Hall have shown, however, that there are other masterly conductors on the local scene who can also build fascinating programs and elicit memorable performances from both the orchestra and visiting artists.



Composer/conductor John Adams

Composer John Adams is a household name in the Bay Area and the world at large. His amazing career has taken him from early membership in the "big three" of Minimalism (Philip Glass and Steve Reich remain tied to the genre) to a current status of unique popular acceptance and high regard from fellow musicians. Every new composition — and he is very prolific — creates a buzz akin to the latest Sondheim show or Woody Allen movie.

Audiences have come to expect a certain sound from Adams. He is a writer who manages to combine intellectual challenge with a gift for lush and transparent orchestration. The resulting sound is recognizable, attractive, generally accessible and always intriguing. He is also an excellent conductor, able to clearly present his own works as well as the scores of other favorite composers.

It came as no surprise that he should be the best advocate for his own Violin Concerto (now six years old) when it was given its first SFS performances in mid-January. Of course, having a soloist as stun-



Violinist Vadim Repin

ningly qualified as Vadim Repin didn't hurt. The rest of the concert was also deeply satisfying, as Adams presented his own orchestral setting of a gorgeous Astor Piazzolla tango, *La Mufa*, Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales*, music from *Orphée et Eurydice* by Gluck, and *Façades* by Philip Glass.

The Violin Concerto, like some of his more recent work, is thornier and more difficult to understand than the witty and lyrical shorter pieces, or the gravely beautiful vocal scores. Still, Adams has never stopped growing, and his music should not be dismissed as merely pretty.

The Concerto requires focused attention from listeners and places almost inhuman demands upon the soloist. Vadim Repin was required to play non-stop for a torturous half-hour while following an arc of unbroken argument. The central section is most recognizably John Adams in rhapsodic mode, but the first and last movements are almost agonizing in their intensity. Like most complicated and brilliant works of art, the Violin Concerto does not yield all its secrets upon first hearing. The inherent importance of the piece demands return visits. Adams and Repin proved that the density of the work is not impenetrable, but rich and mysterious.



Conductor Donald Runnicles

Neo-Victorian

Last week, another local musical icon took MTT's place at Davies for a breathtaking reassessment of a Victorian masterpiece. Donald Runnicles, the esteemed Music Director of the San Francisco Opera since 1992, has also made his presence felt across Grove Street with large-scale presentations of choral works since 1995.

Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Carl Orff's *Carmina burana* have all been previous Runnicles successes, but who was prepared for his thrilling dusting-off of Sir Edward Elgar's setting of Cardinal Newman's ponderous epic poem, *The Dream of Gerontius*? It turns out to have been a rather safe bet. A conductor steeped in the operatic tradition and the choral repertoire, with an admirable grasp of symphonic breadth, should certainly be a natural for the job.

We will not attempt to defend Cardinal Newman's earnest, sometimes cloying portrayal of a Christian soul's journey from death to redemption. The former Anglican priest actually became a Catholic in heartfelt response to his rejection of Church of England liberalism! That he did so at a time

of virulent anti-Catholicism in Great Britain speaks well of his undoubted faith, but cannot dilute the more questionable dogmatism of his text. For a believer, the words are undoubtedly inspirational; for others, they might sound like superstitious twaddle. To composer Elgar, they provoked a work of great invention, loveliness and emotional release.

The first SFS performances proved that *Gerontius* actually has a universal appeal in its story of a man who finds comfort, hope and glory in the peculiarly human drama of freedom from suffering through suffering. And the music — how beautiful and elevating is Elgar's masterwork? Fine enough to survive a disastrous premiere and a century of only occasional airings.

Donald Runnicles sensibly stressed the symphonic aspects of the score, and Vance George's SFS Chorus really excelled in the full-throated blasts of heavenly ecstasy and wonderfully characterized writing for a crowd of particularly nasty demons. The trio of vocal soloists couldn't touch them for commitment or beauty of sound.

Mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore made her highly anticipated Symphony debut with a well-sung, but coolly detached portrayal of the titular character's guardian angel. She was more than adequate, yet less than moving — a surprise from a singer known for her operatic appear-

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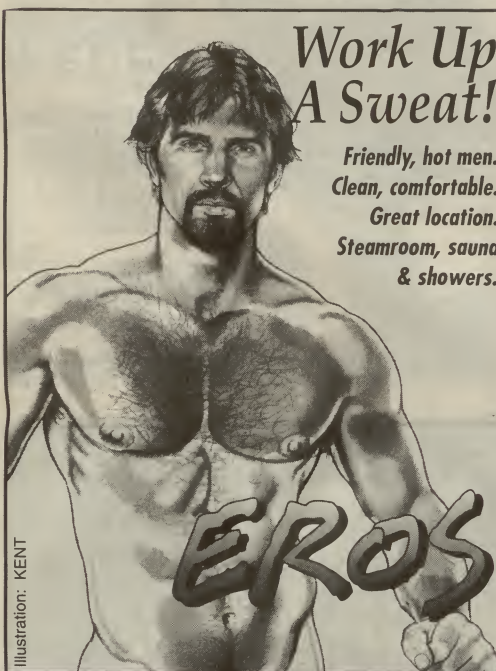
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Watching the detectives

Purple Moon Press helps you keep track

by Deborah Peifer

My mother owned at least six copies of Agatha Christie's *Death in the Air*. The publishers (curse them) kept changing the covers on the books so she didn't recognize them. An important character was a dentist, but his profession had no bearing on the mystery, so when she read the opening chapter in the bookstore, she'd think, "I don't remember an Agatha Christie with a dentist" and buy the book again. This inability to remember a Christie dentist, and other similar memory lapses, seems to be genetic, as I have the same problem, one that is compounded by the number of mysteries I read for review or just for pleasure. I regularly bring home books that I've already read, or worse, already own. Keeping track of series books is particularly difficult, given similarity in titles and covers.

Enter, and thanks to reader Reese for the heads up, *Detecting Women*, 3rd Edition (\$34.95), *Detecting Men* (\$29.95), and their pocket guides (\$16.95, all from Purple Moon Press), the brainchildren of Willetta L. Heising, who founded the press for the purpose of publishing the guides to mysteries with continuing characters. The full-size guides include author, title, date of publication, character names, a brief bio of the author, pseudonyms, as well as all the cross-referencing you could wish for. If you want to read only award-winners or nominees, there's a list. Interested in amateur detectives whose day job is journalism, there's a list. If you remember only the year of publication, Heising has a chronological

list. Each book includes handy little boxes for each title, so you can check off books as being read or owned. Just slip a pocket guide in, well... your pocket, and you'll never duplicate again.

The guides are extraordinarily user-friendly, clearly created by a reader and meant to be used by readers. Heising's journey into publishing began with her own personal lists that she carried around her to keep track of which books she owned or had read, a list she shared with friends and family. When librarians saw people using the list, they asked for copies. Finally, one of Heising's friends insisted that she publish her lists. The rest, as they say... was an e-mail interview to find out a bit more about Heising and her books.

What I'm about is providing information to help people choose books. I don't make judgments about which ones are good, better or best. For that reason, you'll never see me rating mysteries, no matter how many people ask. And they do ask! An unexpected result has been that people looking for gay/lesbian authors are delighted to find them, and the narrow-minded among us who want to keep their distance can do just that.

The pocket guides are wonderful. What was the genesis?

Like many of the improvements and enhancements I've made to my books, the pocket guides were a response to reader demand. Shortly after the first *Detecting Women* was released in February '95 (a mere 256 pages) [DW3 is 479 pages], people started telling me the book was too big and heavy to carry to the bookstore and library. But they wanted to have their checklist with them

at all times, so they suggested a pocket guide. No one told me what it should look like, just that it should be pocket-size. While many people loved the first two pocket guides, the 3-piece assembly (vinyl cover, insert and notepad in the back) was a manufacturing nightmare.

There has been a mixed reaction to the 4 x 8-inch paperback for the newest *Detecting Women* pocket guide, and we may experiment yet again with future pocket guides. Most people prefer the larger pages with bigger print, but some find the new size too large.

What's coming up for you?

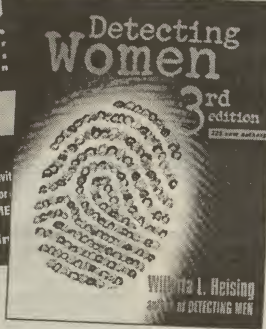
Being a one-woman publishing empire has many challenges, not the least of which is trying to attain profitability. Producing 500-page books is exhausting and not something I can do every year. So I'll be switching to 'subject' guides in 2000 and narrowing the scope of my projects. The plan is

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Book Report

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A Reader's Guide and Checklist for Mystery Series
Written by Men

from the Macaviti
Award-winning author
DETECTING WOMEN
Willetta L. Heising



Deborah Peifer: We, my readers and I, love mysteries, and listings like DW and DM are wonderful. I was especially impressed that you included gay and lesbian writers. Can you talk a bit about why you decided to include GIL writers/detectives?

Willetta L. Heising: Including gay and lesbian authors [and characters] was never an issue for me. Of course they should be included. But I was worried that some authors might be offended if their series were labeled 'Gay/Lesbian.' So I asked several friends for guidance, and it was decided that as long as G/L was not the only designation/description for a series, no one should take offense.

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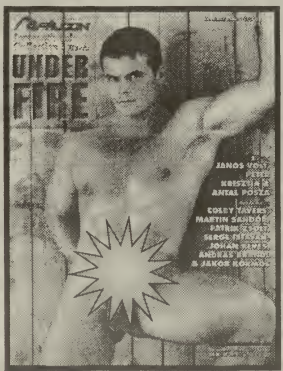
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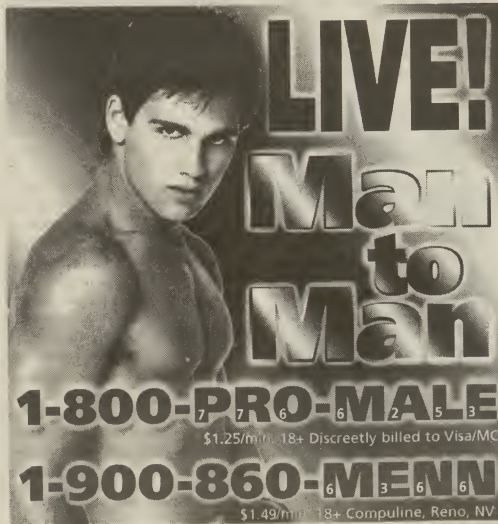
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FILM

Fixing a window: Return of a masterpiece

Restored 'Rear Window,' classic Hitchcock at the Castro Theatre

by David Lamble

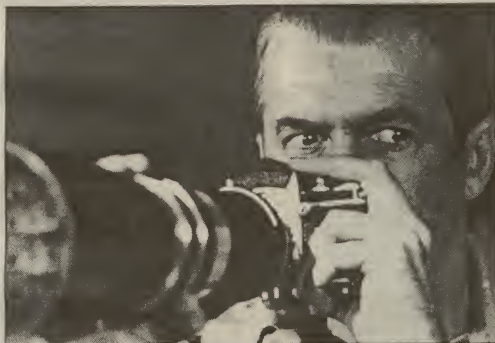
There's a scene 16 minutes into the first reel of the newly restored *Rear Window* when Grace Kelly's head looms into view — 40-feet high — a virtual blonde planet casting a luminous shadow over the face of a wheelchair-bound Jimmy Stewart. Taking up a full five seconds of screentime, the kiss between Kelly's "Ice Goddess" and Stewart's bemused Everyman represents a pinnacle of the film art of Alfred Hitchcock.

Looking to make a fresh print of *Rear Window* in time for its creator's 100th birthday anniversary, the folks who guard the film vaults at Universal Studios were horrified to see just how badly this great screen kiss had aged. Scratched and faded, with 40-year-old chunks of dirt embedded in the fragile old negative, Kelly appeared to be kissing Stewart in the midst of a celluloid snowstorm. The kiss was only one of dozens of scenes whose condition made them virtually unprintable. Through a fluke of '50s film tech-

nology, the theatrical prints for *Rear Window* had all been struck using and abusing the original camera negative. Some fading could already be detected in prints prepared for *Rear Window*'s first rerelease in 1962.

As the executive in charge of preservation and vault services at Universal Studios, Bob O'Neil is the guy who decides to send in the cavalry — decides which films can and should be saved (by best estimates, nearly 90 percent of films from the Silent Era have vanished, and perhaps 50 percent of all films shot in the Sound Era no longer exist). That cavalry consists of dedicated film technicians like Robert A. Harris and James C. Katz. Harris led a team that searched the planet for production elements to restore David Lean's original vision of *Lawrence of Arabia*. James Katz had teamed up with Harris to revive Hitchcock's other great '50s classic, *Vertigo*.

Bob O'Neil explains in a recent interview that film restoration is as much an art as a science, and that one decade's state of the art can be another decade's "Oops!"

Jimmy Stewart in Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

Oops plays a fateful role in the troubled history of the production elements of *Rear Window*. In 1967, when the rights to *Rear Window* reverted to Hitchcock, the director, to the lasting chagrin of today's film archivists, took some bad advice to heart, and as a result junked all elements to the film except for the original camera negative, separation masters, a 16mm optical soundtrack negative, and a 35mm optical soundtrack negative. Hitch then compounded the error by sticking the surviving elements in a non-air-conditioned storage facility. O'Neil notes that today's experts advise keeping film stock just above freezing, with a relative humidity of about 25 percent.

One reason for the cold storage is to retard the process by which the acids in the film base start turning the film into a vinegar-like solution more suitable for mixing salad than saving a movie.

Pan and swoop

Hitchcock told the French director François Truffaut that *Rear Window* had appealed to him in the first place because it represented "the possibility of doing a purely cinematic film." The opening scene features a 90-second dialogueless shot where the camera pans across the open windows of Stewart's neighbors (like so many television channels for him to surf) and into his rear window — noting a single drop of sweat

crossing his sleeping brow — the camera swooping through his studio apartment dramatizing the accident that left him immobilized in a cast for seven weeks.

Transformed by the forced inactivity from an award-winning photo journalist into a gossipy old snoop who suspects one of his courtyard neighbors of murder, Stewart becomes a man compelled to face his and another man's dark side — a man forced into the shadows to confront whether another man's crime is worse than his own. Every image in the film becomes a mirror into a man's soul, and thus must be rendered as flawlessly as possible. In *Rear Window*, a single red ash glowing in a darkened apartment reveals the identity of a murderer. A click on a telephone line signals another murder to come. A kiss is elongated, a police rescue speeded up — *Rear Window* reveals its secrets through subtle cinematic tricks which the restorationist's art had to return to full life.

The kiss was the most difficult and expensive single part of the *Rear Window* restoration. At a cost of \$70,000, the 30-second sequence was recolored and digitally restored (ironically, a 40-year-old accumulation of dirt was cleaned off the old negative, only to be replaced by brand new dirt from the lab processes). Almost equally challenging for Harris and Katz was restoration of the pure

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REVIEW

Voyeur with a view

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film *Rear Window*, which opens Friday at the Castro Theatre in a restored print, was nominated for a series of Oscars, among them Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography and Best Sound. Elia Kazan beat out Hitchcock that year with the best film he ever directed, *On The Waterfront*, but *Rear Window* remains one of Hitchcock's three most brilliant films (the other two: *Vertigo* and *Psycho*).

Hitchcock was such a masterful director, such a superb stylist, that he was virtually unmatched among American directors (yes, we know he was British, but he made nearly all his films here) for his sense of nuance. *Rear Window* epitomizes that skill.

James Stewart, in one of his best roles, plays macho photojournalist L.B. Jeffries. It's high summer, and Jeffries is laid up in his sweltering little apartment nursing a leg broken as he tried to get spectacular photos at an auto race gone bad. The photos are fabulous, but Jeffries is in a cast from waist to toe. Attended by his wisecracking nurse, Stella (played by the inimitable Thelma Ritter), and gorgeous society girlfriend Lisa Fremont (Grace Kelly at her spends his off-hours watching the neighbors in his courtyard apartment complex.

There's Miss Lonelyhearts, the unhappy single lady (Judith Evelyn); Miss Torso, the limber blonde dancer; the Songwriter, who plays haunting piano but can't sell a song; the Newlyweds, who never get out of bed once they cross the threshold; and the Salesman (Raymond Burr) and his invalid wife.


Jeffries watches this panoply with undisguised voyeuristic delight. No one is very happy in this claustrophobic little enclave, and some — like Miss Lonelyhearts and the Salesman — are downright miserable. The latter, it seems, is miserable enough to kill.

On a dark and stormy night, as Jeffries dozes in his wheelchair, the Salesman goes in and out of his apartment lugging his sample case — until three in the morning. The next day, when Jeffries awakens, the shades are drawn on the Salesman's bedroom, and he appears to be alone; his invalid wife has disappeared.

Jeffries posits she's dead and the Salesman has murdered her, dismembering her body and sealing it in a steamer trunk. He calls an old army buddy, Tom Doyle (Wendell Corey), now a police detective, and tries to interest him in the case. Doyle thinks Jeffries is suffering from too much imagination and cabin fever. But Jeffries knows he's right, and with the help of Lisa and Stella, sets out to prove it.

Grace Kelly in *Rear Window*

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Storm of the century

by Victoria A. Brownworth

While most of the country was digging out from the worst series of winter storms in several years, the real storm was in the drang on TV. What a thrilling week — the State of the Union Address, Super Bowl XXXIV and the New Hampshire primary — we haven't been so excited since we saw Courtney Love's dress — or what was left of it — at the Golden Globes. (And were her globes golden. Excuse us, but when we pay \$20,000 for a dress, we'd prefer not to have to strap our breasts into it with duct tape.)

We don't pretend to like football, though we have been known to enjoy a good tight end. We have never understood the attraction for men with necks bigger than our thighs (and brains smaller than our cat's). And we also have this nagging problem with violence against women: This game had more guys accused of crimes against women playing in it than in any other year (or prison). Of course, we loved the aftergame show on *Jerry Springer* — mistresses and wives telling their hubbies that while the boys were watching the game, the girls were doing their own end runs.

Much as we love masterful names like "Titans" and "Rams" (can't you just smell the latex?), we decided to tape rather than watch (well, we wouldn't want to miss Tina Turner or those thrilling \$4 million commercials, would we?).



Tina Turner

Speaking of La Turner (now, these are legs we like to see on a football field. And did Dick Clark unveil his secret to perpetual

youth? La Turner looks fabulous — she seems to be getting younger with each successive decade. Talk about living well being the best revenge — like Who?, recently departed *ER* player Gloria Reuben sang back-up for her at SB XXXIV — a nice start to a new facet of her already strong career.

And speaking of those commercials — will anyone remember anything other than Christopher Reeve walking through the Nuveen ad? We liked the idea, but wish the spot had been for something other than investment banking.

Demonic voices

On the subject of investments, we wouldn't put money on Bill Bradley staying in the race too long post-New Hampshire. We found Bradley perfectly fine (now basketball, there's a game) at the outset. Dreamy, laconic, a little too Adlai Stevenson-wannabe, but okay. But when he began to compare Washington's Mr. Squeaky Clean, Al Gore, to Richard Nixon, we started to think perhaps the lights were on but no one was home. All of a sudden that vacant look Bradley so often has began to make sense; perhaps he's not focusing on the middle distance so much as listening to demonic voices telling him to say whatever comes into his head. Apparently the demon mantra is "tricky."

Memo to Bradley: Just because

the Republicans tried to convince America that Monicagate and Watergate were interchangeable doesn't make Al Gore Richard Nixon. Saying so makes you sound stupid, smug and snide. That's George Bush's role, dear. It suits him much better than it does you.

Speaking of Republicans, as we watched the camera pan over that motley crew during the State of the Union, we couldn't help thinking how much it looked like *Animal House* in Brooks Brothers drag. Leering and sneering their petty and mean-spirited way through Clinton's rabble-raising 90-minute



Lavender Tube

speech, they seemed, to a bunch of nasty frat boys and their ditty molls. And that dismal Republican rejoinder to Clinton's speech! Reps. Susan Collins and Dr. Dan Frist ("the only doctor in the House") — get it? Frist droned on about his life as a cardiologist. Yes, dear, but you're a politician now. Someone get some amyl nitrate so he can wake up and smell the reality) make George Bush Jr. look scintillating. His Bushness called Clinton's speech boring (has he listened to himself lately?) and too long (we've heard drug use can alter one's attention span).

Meanwhile, Clinton's superb oration only made the Republicans look worse. Just read from left to right directly off the TelePrompeter, kids — it surrrre looks natural. Especially when you read to the end of the line instead of the end of the sentence. Dan Quayle couldn't spell potato — and this crew can't spell clueless.

Speaking of clueless, Jonathan Taylor Thomas (former teen throb of *Home Improvement*) came out on the cover of *The Advocate* ... as straight (well, it is *The Advocate*, not *Newsweek*, after all). JTT told *Access Hollywood* he wanted to pick the right time and venue to discuss and dispel all the tabloid rumors that he's queer — especially since he's playing queer in the Showtime feature *Common Ground*. (Yes, dear, the national queer rag is the best place to tell the world you aren't gay.)

Meanwhile, that satin Latin, Ricky Martin was touring the tabloids, talking about his upcoming Grammy appearance, among other things. He told *Access Hollywood* he dyed his hair girls — uh, boys — do this at the beach?, but then, when the tabloids printed photos, he shaved it off. "If they think I'm like this," he said, turning his left hand over, Miss America- (or RuPaul-) style, "then I'll show them I'm like this." Now, we like encoded conversations as much as the next spy who shagged us, but what's up with this, we asked ourselves.

Then we caught Martin on *ET*. When asked if he was looking for the perfect date to take to the Grammys, he explained he wasn't "into that." Oh-kay. Our mother always told us boys who wore tight shirts were swishy. Could she have been right? She also thought girls who wore pants were butch — maybe we could ask our favorite closet case Rosie O'Donnell when she hosts the Grammys (she says she doesn't own a dress — but we bet Ricky does).

Frankly speaking

Speaking of heavier things (no, we aren't referring to Oprah's new look, though what's with these sausage-casing dresses in all the colors of Crayola she's been wearing? We know she's on that high-protein, low-carb diet, and you are what you eat, but if she doesn't get some different outfits soon, the reruns of these shows are going to be tagged *Oprah: The Bratwurst Years*) — seriously — *NYPD Blue* and *The West Wing* have been producing some very strong queer material, focusing on anti-gay crimes while *Chicago Hope* (a show we stopped watching when it got too ridiculous; Barbara Hershey is a guilty pleasure of ours, but our suspension of disbelief ends with her new 'do — fire-engine red hair in corkscrew curls — and collagened lips. Neurosurgeon? We think not) did a turn on an intersex "girl" who feels like a boy (the missing penis had something to do with it).

Last week's *Blue* found Dennis Franz and Rick Schroder investigating a homicide in which the vic was a promiscuous businessman. He'd been stabbed 47 times and Bobbited. (And, in a subplot that brought the wrath of the real NY Fire Department down on the show, robbed by a firefighter.) The doer turned out to be one of the guy's tricks — a young rough trade hustler claiming to be straight who got angry because the guy had kissed him. Opportunities aplenty for Franz to strut his latent anti-gay stuff while also sharing some intense gazes with Bill Brochtrup. Hmmm.

The West Wing has pilloried politics as usual on hate crimes several weeks running with a Matthew Shepard-esque storyline. Press Secretary CJ (the superb Allison Janney) has played this one out with wonderful subtlety. The Leidels, parents of the dead boy, come to Washington to appear with the Prez in support of his hate crimes legislation. But on arrival, it's discovered they have their own opinions. At first, it seems Dad had trouble with his son's queerness; then it's revealed what he has trouble with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Why shouldn't his son have been good enough to be in the military? CJ wants them to show anyway, and even say what they think. But politics prevail; they're sent home, and excuses are made.

This show is wonderfully well-written and insider-smart and never fails to take on current issues. Must see.

Sneaking of political shows to publicans chattering: Bill Clinton will be co-hosting *Roger Ebert at the Movies*, warming the Gene Siskel memorial chair on February 5 and 6. We want to see how much his stint will mirror those *SNL* skits with Clinton reviewing current films. We so love it when art imitates politics.

Finally, on the topic of art imitating politics, the new hot newscast in Russia is *Naked Truth* on the country's M1 channel. Gorgeous strippers read the news — while stripping — and use bananas as pseudo mics. (We are not making this up.) The show is now the top-rated newscast in Russia (not). The producer says life in Russia is hard, the war in Chechnya bad, and his show makes the news easier to take.

We would have said swallow. So much gets lost in translation. ▼

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SPECTACLE

Cirque du Soleil

◀ Arts cover

isn't the only thing to set this Cirque du Soleil show apart from its predecessors, especially from the slightly ominous *Quidam* that visited the Bay Area in 1997.

Since its beginnings in Quebec in 1984, Cirque du Soleil has designed each show first, and then found the performers who fit the concept. But with *Dralion*, the show has been built around a troupe of 35 acrobats who form one of the elite troupes of China. "We've done shows with lots of Russians," Caron said, "but never from the same city, the same troupe, so this is different, because they come from the same place, with the same spirit, and with the same artistic orientation."

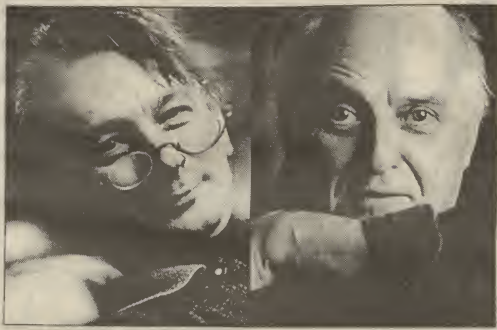
Dragon seed

Caron, making his return to Cirque du Soleil after 12 years, said the seed for *Dralion* — the title is a combination of dragon and lion — came during a 1988 trip to China with circus founder Guy Liberte. "We thought it would be a great idea to present a Chinese troupe with a hint of Cirque du Soleil," Caron said. "But we changed that, because we don't want to make a 'Cirque du Soleil presents a Chinese show.' This is definitely a Cirque du Soleil show."

In addition to the Chinese, the cast of 54 comes from a total of eight countries, and while an Asian influence is definitely present, the design of the show is still marked by flights of fantasy that help define the Cirque du Soleil experience. Costume designer François Barbeau, traveling with Caron to help promote the show, learned to let his imagination fly for his first Cirque du Soleil experience.

"When we started, we had a big meeting with everyone with the circus, and I showed a fabric I found in China I was very proud of," Barbeau said. "And Guy Liberte looked at it and said it looked like a Chinese restaurant. I found that designing for the circus for the first time is like making fireworks."

He pointed to his sketch of a fancifully plumed costume suggesting fire for a hoop-diving



Director Guy Caron and costume designer François Barbeau

number. "This costume was influenced by an African painting," Barbeau said, "and it's quite extraordinary to have all the Chinese men disguised as African. It really does work."

Caron impersonated the reactions of the Chinese when they first saw their costumes: "Hee-hee-hee." But even harder than convincing them to don these strange and wonderful outfits was getting them to think of the circus as theater.

"At my circus school," Caron said, "I'm always saying 'an actor of the circus.' But in China, the acrobats are acrobats. They know nothing about drama. They are afraid to show their feelings. It was the hardest part about doing this. It was like the Long March of Mao Zedong."

Caron was Cirque du Soleil's first artistic director, working with founder Guy Liberte to reinvent a form that had come to be defined by the bland spectacle of Ringling Brothers. "If, in 1980, I asked you if you wanted to go to the circus, you'd say, forget it, because the circus is for children," Caron said. "I've worked for 20 years trying to bring back the high quality that the circus had at the beginning of the 20th century."

But most of those 20 years have not been spent with Cirque du Soleil. Caron left just three years after its debut because he felt it was growing too big. "By 1987, Columbia wanted to make a film, Disney wanted to buy us, the circus wanted to make two or three other shows at the same

time in America, and Guy Liberte wanted to make a musical on Broadway. For me it was too much, and I had to quit. I just wanted to make a show every two years, but he said that's where we're going. I said, I just want to go back to my little thing, my school and all my stuff."

In addition to running two circus schools, Caron has been busy as a freelance director since departing Cirque du Soleil. "I was proud to come back, because you put a seed in the ground, and it grows, and it was marvelous," Caron said. "But the business is very high-pressure. I don't want to be in their boots, that's for sure."

Indeed, with seven shows running on three continents, the Cirque du Soleil machine needed to look beyond its own staff to create the latest show. Caron was invited back because he knew the Cirque du Soleil formula, but he also insisted on putting his own touches on *Dralion*.

"The Cirque du Soleil ambience is there, but it's true that there is more circus in it," he said. "People say, 'Oh, this show is different.' But Cirque du Soleil is always about reinvention. Cirque du Soleil reinvented the circus, and now we're trying to reinvent our own circus." ▼

Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* will run through March 19. Tickets are \$39-\$60. Call (800) 678-5440 or go online to cirquedusoleil.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 4

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Rice Room: Scenes from a Bar," written and performed by Noel Alumi, directed by Deborah Nishimura. The lives of gay Asian men collide in Alumi's solo show set in a trendy West Hollywood bar. \$17 (\$15 Sun. 2pm matinee). 8pm. Fri.-Sun. thru Feb. 20. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix: 861-8972.

Marin Center, San Rafael
Irish music legends The Chieftains' blend of traditional and contemporary sounds, led by Paddy Moloney's evocative uilleann pipes and the beautiful harp of Derek Bell. In their 36-year tenure, the Chieftains have collaborated with Paul McCartney,

Sting, Elvis Costello, Sinead O'Connor and many others. \$28, \$35 & \$42. 8pm. Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, San Rafael. Tix: 472-3500 or BASS.

il Teatro 450

"Spunk!" A one-woman show exploring the dynamics of surrender and control, written and performed by Nancy Wright Cooper. Both a playful romp and a serious exploration of the Bondage & Discipline scene. \$15. 8pm. Thru Feb. 27. 499 Powell St., 3rd Floor (near Union Square). Info: 433-1172.

Venue 9

Central Works Theater Ensemble presents "The Taming of the Shrew (Revised)," a radical revisioning of the Shakespeare classic, stripping away the slap-stick sub-plots, leaving only

the story that lies at its core: a tale of the breaking of a woman's spirit. Directed by Gary Graves; featuring Rica Anderson, Ken Ingram, Phil Lowery, Randall Miller and Jan Zvaifler. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru 2/26. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). Reservations: (510) 558-1381.

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together meets to discuss the work of James Baldwin and Langston Hughes, as part of their monthly series of chat nights. Al Cunningham is the guest speaker. Refreshments served. Free. 7 to 9pm. 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th). 675-0201.

Studio @ Rhino

"Broadway Ballbusters," a man-bashing musical review conceived by Eric Brizze and Alan Fricke, directed by Allen Sawyer and John Karr. Featuring performers Eric Brizze, Jorge Hernandez, Gary Wayne Farris, pianist Alan Fricke, and a score of Broadway tunes about break-ups, breakdowns, and how gay men do what they do to beguile. \$14-\$15. 8:30pm. Closing Sat., Feb. 5 (7:30pm and 10pm). The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix: 861-5079.

UC Theatre, Berkeley

The outrageous Tchaikovsky biopic, *The Music Lovers* (1971), starring Richard Chamberlain and Glenda Jackson (2:25, 7:10pm). Part of the run-amok oeuvre presented in the theater's mini-festival "The Madness of Ken Russell." Stay for the double feature if you want to see Alan Bates and Oliver Reed wrestle nude in *Women in Love* (1969). Also screens on Sat., Feb. 5. \$7. 2036 University Ave. (at Shattuck). 510-843-FILM.

Sat 5

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Point Reyes National Seashore hike. This is a combined bus tour and hike that will include a visit to the Lighthouse, Drake's Beach and Chimney Rock. We will take time at the Lighthouse to witness the gray whale migration and to view the elephant seal mating grounds on Drake's Beach. It's a moderate 6-8 mile hike with about a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Dolores and Market. Club info: 487-

6410.

Cafe Macondo

Gay Geeks, a gay/bi/lesbian social club, holds its monthly intellectual gabfest, which usually lasts three to four hours. Topics include archeology, religion, science, and philosophy—but not computers! 2pm. 3159 16th St. (btwn Valencia and Guerrero). Info: 510-351-5500.

Belcher Gallery Studios

"Life Support 1," a weekend-long fundraiser for the Hard Candy Theater Project and Bay Positives, a youth HIV services center. Today's program, the "Artists Art Show," features performances, telecasts by video master David Wagenbach, sound design by Kadet Kuhne of Tecktonic Shift, and an art exhibition and sale. On Sunday, Feb. 6, from 5pm to 9pm, grab a partner and join the "Dance-4-Love," a four-hour dance marathon, with contests, raffles, and free T-shirts. 69 Belcher St. 447-0735.

Yerba Buena Center

"Small Windows," the San Francisco Art Institute 8mm Film Festival. Tonight's films include selected Songs by Stan Brakhage, *nothing but...* by Phil Weisman, *Untitled #6* by Greg Sharits, *Comers* by Scott Stark and other curated films by artists; a selection of amazing, anonymous American home movies from diverse cultural backgrounds and locations during the 1940s and 50s; and a selection of films submitted to the Festival. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Info: Janis Crystal Lipzin, 749-4816.

Club Tango Tango

"Pinky's Palace," a new open-mike drag show and talent search to be held the first Saturday of every month. En Drag model-spokesperson Pinky Bubbles hosts this glam-crammed event, open to all drag performers, novice to pro. The crowned talent-search queen receives a cash prize and a guest spot in En Drag, the club's weekly drag revue. Contestants should bring a tape or CD and sign up before showtime. \$5. 10:30pm. 1550 California St. (at Polk). 775-0442.

Sun 6

Yerba Buena Center

"Small Windows," the San Francisco Art Institute 8mm Film Festival.

Tonight's films include *Notes by Saul Levine*, *By 2's and 3's* by Marjorie Keller, *Walk and Train Ride* by Michael Mideke, and other artists' films and home movies. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Info: Janis Crystal Lipzin, 749-4816.

McKenna Theatre, SFSU

The Morrison Artists Series presents the music ensemble "eighth blackbird" performing Stacey Bowers' *Pat-tern Study No. 2*, David Schober's *Variations*, Donald Martino's *Notturno*, Carlos Sanchez Gutierrez' *Luciernagas*, and Thomas Albert's *Thirteen Ways*. Free. 3pm. Creative Arts Bldg., SF State University, 1600 Holloway. Info: 338-1358.

ODC Theater

"Transbay Expressions," curated by Youth Speaks and the Black Dot Poetry Collective. A celebration of Black History Month and Bob Marley's birthday, this theater event is also the launch for a series of hip-hop poetry performances showcasing emerging young artists from all sides of the Bay. Featured talent includes Seeking, Biko, Toussaint Haki, Sonia Whittle, Chinaka Hodge, and Promiss. Proceeds benefit the National Teen Poetry Slam Festival, to be hosted by Youth Speaks. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Mon 7

SFSU

Guest Artist Recital: Stephen Gosling and Eric Huebner, duo piano. Free. 3pm. McKenna Theater. 1600 Holloway. 338-2467.

Kimo's

QComedy.com presents its weekly Gay Comedy Showcase. This night of both funny queer and funny ha-ha boasts the following lineup: Scott Capurro, Bridget Schwartz, Kirk Read, Blake, David Harper, Leslie D., David Kleinberg, Nemo Williams, Carla Clay, and Maggie Dolan. \$5. 8pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4554.

Thick House

Bertolt Brecht's *The Visions of Simone Machard*, written with Lion Feuchtwanger, translated by Ralph Manheim, and directed by Tony Kelly. Written in 1942, during Brecht's American exile in Santa Monica, this play concerns a young girl who reads a book about Joan of Arc and is inspired to do her part to fight the German occupation of France. Trish Ng plays the eponymous visionary. Wilma Bonet, Norman Gee, Dena Martinez, Michael Torres, and David Yezzi round out the cast. \$10-\$20 sliding scale. 8pm. Following tonight's opening, shows are Thu.-Sun. thru Feb. 27. 1695 18th St. 401-8081.

Tue 8

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Make It So" Productions presents "Viva Variety VI," featuring the best in gay and "gay-friendly" entertainment, benefiting Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. The stellar lineup includes singer/songwriter Laura Chandler, performance artist Peggy L'Eggs (Matthew Simmons), singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield, chanteuse Connie Champagne, Labayen Dance/SF, the cast of "Broadway Ballbusters," the Latino comedy troupe Latin Hustle, performance artist Mark Baum, comedienne Max Kincora (from "Luv Lezzie" comedy troupe) and the cast of John Fisher's current production at Rhino, "Barebacking." Hosted by Steve Murray. \$15. 8pm. 2926 16th St. (near S. Van Ness). Tix: 863-0741.

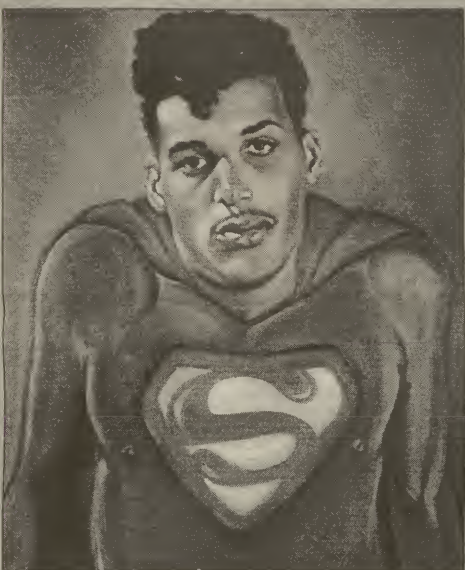
Venue 9

Footloose presents "Winter Stories," a multimedia performance piece by author, composer and director Tari Karkanen. Ten short segments explore love lost, gotten or wanted, embodied by strangers at a bus stop who find their individual daydreams intermingling. With dancer/choreographer John Zane and live music by the Kings of Nothing. \$7-\$12 sliding. 8:30pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

Live Oak School

Foggy City Dancers, an organization for lesbian and gay square-dance lovers, offers a night of free introduc-

Calendare by Billy Lux



SuperMann, oil on canvas, 1999, by Claibourn Hamilton.

The Hamilton mint

Before the big guns at SFMOMA unload their new exhibit *Fact/Fiction: Contemporary Art That Walks the Line* (Feb. 19-May 21), you might want to visit a small, engaging show with a similar theme: the reinvention of the familiar. Painter Claibourn Hamilton's solo effort *Ideal Pop*, now on view at Quetzal Cafe, sets the worlds of Hollywood and Madison Avenue on a collision course with the Polkstrasse. You might even say the show is site-specific, in the sense that the work seems to spring from the fevered dream of a male teen or a hustler, or both. It is a dream not just of making it big, but also of usurping traditional role assignments in mass media.

"*Ideal Pop* ponders how reality is depicted in popular culture. It challenges the notion of who and what we consider to be ideal," says Hamilton, 28, a native of San Antonio, Texas, who has lived in San Francisco for almost four years. "The gazes of my black Marlboro Man and my Latino Superman test the viewer's perceptions of the ideal."

The model for Latino Superman was pulled from a skin magazine, and his gaze is indeed compelling. His weary facial expression seems to be conveying the message that a gum job from a toothless john can be just as draining as a bar of Kryptonite. Some of Hamilton's other pieces, however, appear to be indulging in popular culture rather than making ironic comment on it. But this ambiguity works in the show's favor and keeps it from striking a didactic stance.

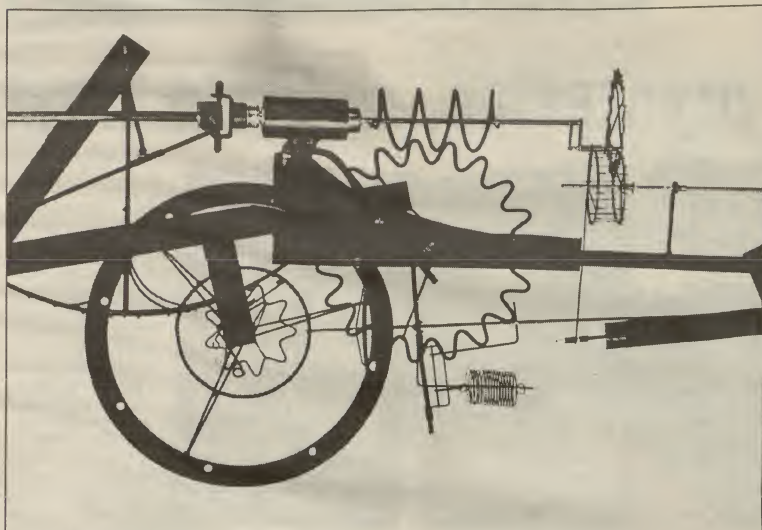
"I never set out to push the boundaries of gay black issues in my artwork," says Hamilton, "it just evolved that way. This show is the first time I've been able to do a body of work that reflects who I am."

Pop Art lovers would be well-served to reinvent the now-familiar theme of Black History Month by looking ahead, instead of back, toward a young African American painter with a promising future. ▼

Ideal Pop runs through February 29 at Quetzal Cafe and Restaurant, 1234 Polk St. (at California).



Matt Boyd dances with Company Chaddick, as they celebrate their 15th anniversary at Theater Artaud. See Thursday.



Artist/engineer Arthur Ganson creates a *Chain Reaction* at the Exploratorium. See Wednesday.

tory lessons held in the school's basement. You don't need a fiddle, a bale of hay, or even a partner, just a pair of happy feet. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 117 Diamond St. (at 18th). 452-8112.

A Different Light

Scott Capurro reads from his debut novel, *Fowl Play*. The local stand-up comic's work explores the grimmer aspects of falling in lust. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Herbst Theatre

City Arts & Lectures presents an evening with Ursula Hegl, the author of the highly acclaimed novel *Stones from the River*. This work's long-awaited companion piece, *The Vision of Emma Blau*, a multigenerational novel detailing immigrant life in America, was recently released. Host Susan Sullivan will interview the author about her books and her experience of growing up in postwar Germany. \$17. 8pm. 401 Van Ness (at McAllister). 392-4400.

Wed 9

Exploratorium

"Chain Reaction," in which MIT engineer, inventor and artist Arthur Ganson creates a dramatic chain reaction with mechanisms lined up to create one long series of physical events—burns, pours, pushes, pulls, bumps and grinds. Don't miss the inherent tension. Part of 2nd Wednesday's café-

style artists gathering. Free with museum entry (\$9 gen'l; \$7 university students/seniors; \$5 people with disabilities/youth. 7pm. 3601 Lyon St. (Marina District). Info: EXP-LORE.

Asian Art Museum

Opening: "Alienation and Assimilation," the first large-scale exhibition of works by photographers and multimedia artists from Korea to be mounted anywhere in the world. \$7 gen'l; \$5 seniors; \$4 youth. 9:30am-5pm Tue.-Sun. Thru Apr. 30. Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Red Vic

Bronx boy Charlie Ahearn's documentary *Wild Style* (1982). Journey back to the pre-Giuliani glory days of graffiti, breakdancing, and hip-hop. Featuring Cold Crush Bros., Grand Master Flash, Busy Bee, Double Trouble, and Fab 5 Freddy. \$6.50. (2, 7:30, 9:30pm.) Also screens Thu., Feb. 10 (7:30, 9:30pm). 1727 Haight. 668-3994.

A Different Light

Gloria Brame reads from *Come Hither: A Commonsense Guide to Kinky Sex*. Brame delivers the unstraight skinny on bondage, spanking, discipline, power exchange, fetishism, role-play, and transgenderism. The opposite of a vanilla lover's delight. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Yerba Buena Center

Frameline presents a pair of doc video shorts about youngsters: *Surviving*

Friendly Fire (1997), by Todd Nelson, and *Out Loud* (1995), by Cheri Gaulke. The first concerns a group of homeless teens in L.A. who form a touring theater troupe. The second allows gay and lesbian adolescents to discuss their hopes and fears in their own words and with their own vision. \$7; \$6 students and seniors. 8pm. 701 Mission St. 978-2700.

Thu 10

Mechanics' Institute

A reading and book signing for *The Subject of Our Lives: Thirteen San Francisco Women Tell Their Stories*, an anthology of shared wisdom. Refreshments served. \$5. 6pm. 57 Post St. (btwn Montgomery and Kearny). 393-0114.

Boadecia's Books, Berkeley

Sal Risinger of the Alameda County No on Knight Campaign will answer questions, sign up volunteers, and rally the troops. Free. 7:30pm. 398 Colusa Ave. (at Colusa Circle, North Berkeley). 510-559-9184.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Benefit preview: "Boy Meets Boy," the first of three "In Concert" musicals. Music and lyrics by Bill Solly; book by Bill Solly and Donald Ward; directed by George Quick. World-famous reporter Casey O'Brien (Paul Araquistain), seeks out Guy Rose (Graham Grubb), who's rumored to be quite a catch. When he finally finds the plain, bespectacled Guy, he thinks he's found the wrong man, and enlists the lad's help in finding the "true" English Rose. Tonight's proceeds benefit the "No on Knight" campaign. \$20. 8pm. Runs Feb. 12—March 5. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 861-8972.

Theater Artaud

Company Chaddick celebrate their 15th anniversary with an evening of dance theater, including three premieres and their signature piece, "Crossings," a mournful ode to the loss of many friends to the AIDS epidemic. The ten-member ensemble emphasizes "freedom, energy and playfulness" in their both humorous and serious work. Choreography by Cheryl Chaddick. \$17. 8pm. Also on Feb. 12, 18, & 19. 450 Florida St. (at Marinella). Tix: 621-7797 or at Ticket Web and Tix/Union Square.

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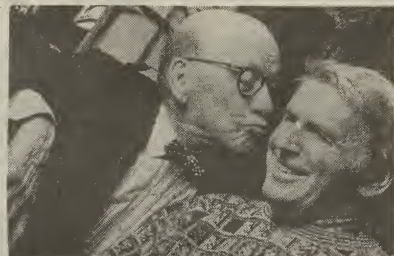
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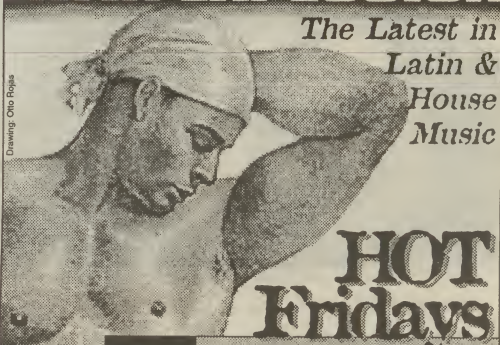
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Central Works presents *The Taming of the Shrew (Revised)*. See Friday.

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So many lesbian mysteries, so little time

by Deborah Peifer

Murder Undercover: the First Denise Cleever Thriller by Claire McNab; Naiad, \$11.95

Every Time We Say Goodbye: the 7th Robin Miller Mystery by Jaye Maiman; Naiad, \$11.95

7th Heaven: the 7th Cassidy James Mystery by Kate Calloway; Naiad, \$11.95

With so many lesbian mysteries published each year, it's easy to fall into the habit of thinking about them as interchangeable when, in fact, the range of quality is striking. Three new mysteries from Naiad Press illustrate the heights as well as the depths of genre fiction.

When I heard that Claire McNab was starting a new mystery series for Naiad, I was filled with (OK, I'll admit it) dread, and more than a little apprehension. Would McNab continue writing her Carol Ashton mysteries? Could she possibly match the quality of that stellar series? The good news is that the answer to both question is a resounding yes. Denise Cleever is no ersatz Carol Ashton. She is an undercover operative who is completely individual, entertaining, engrossing, sexy, and vibrantly alive.

Something is seriously wrong at an exclusive resort located on an island near the Great Barrier Reef. Denise Cleever, posing as an itinerant bartender, needs to find proof of the nefarious deeds that the Australian Security Intelligence Organization is certain are going on at the resort. And if the job includes getting to know the owner's daughter biblically? Denise is just the woman to take

on that terrible task. As is to be expected with a McNab novel, there is much more going on than mere suspense. Denise Cleever is an agent whose work forces her — and the reader — to consider larger questions of loyalty and patriotism, which she does with a ready wit and a willingness to take as many chances as necessary to get the job done. *Murder Undercover* is a real page-turner with an edge-of-the-seat ending that will keep you gasping.

Wood picker

Robin Miller, Jaye Maiman's extraordinary dyke dick, is in real trouble in *Every Time We Say Goodbye*. Her lover is pregnant and house-hunting. Robin, who has commitment issues, lots of them, has to face the possibility that she will lose her beloved K.T. if she doesn't go along with the house thing. But she has to ask herself: "What kind of woman has a favorite wood? And how did I, for whom 'pine' is a scent of air fresheners, end up in love with her?"

Robin has more on her detecting agenda than finding a killer house in New Jersey. She has to find a killer, maybe several of them, that threaten her family, her clients, and finally herself.

Maiman captures relationship angst with humor and tenderness, and she skillfully weaves questions of love and devotion into a plot concerned with money-laundering, murder, and child abuse. Her

characters are rendered with an exquisite attention to detail that makes them entirely believable and completely unforgettable. *Every Time We Say Goodbye* is a taut and touching thriller — one that will keep you thinking and feeling long after you turn the last page.

Deadly fiction

A woman whose opinion I respect told me that Kate Calloway's Cassidy James' mysteries were, my published feeling to the contrary notwithstanding, really good. Owing to her comment, I decided to read the latest, *7th Heaven*, to see if I might be missing something. The short answer is, no, the long answer, no way! Once again, Calloway combines an inept detective with an unbelievable plot, dreary writing, and deadly characters. The result is genre fiction at its worst.

Consider this example of Calloway's stunning inability to pace her novel: Cassidy's closest friend is beaten to within an inch of his life. Before he lapses into a coma, he utters a few cryptic words to

Cassidy's ex, who just happens to be around to hear them. When Cassidy's friend, the cop investigating the case, asks if the victim said anything, Cassidy lies. Then she breaks into the victim's house and steals evidence. Later, when she realizes that the cryptic words might have been misinterpreted, she breaks into the house again, and finds the hidden evidence, documents so important to the victim that he used his last conscious moments to talk about them. Does she look at the clues?

that Calloway is trying to make the situation suspenseful, but this is not the way. If Calloway had any lightness, any wit at all in her writing, I might think this was supposed to be a send-up, like the unbelievable but fun *Die Hard* movies; but there is no suggestion in any of her novels (and ministers of grace preserve me, I've read them all) that her tongue is anywhere near her cheek. The seventh novel in this wretched series is no worse than any of the others, but not one of them is worth your time or treasure. ▼

Growing up in the 20th century

by Jim Nawrocki

Men on Men 2000, edited by David Bergman and Karl Woelz; Plume, \$12.95

Since 1986, the *Men on Men* series has presented provocative collections of short stories by both well-known and emerging gay writers. In so doing, the anthology has helped chronicle not only the development of gay fiction, but the events and issues of contemporary gay history. With the publication of *Men on Men 2000*, note the editors David Bergman and Karl Woelz in their introduction, it's a good time to take a look back.

Perhaps the most obvious product of that looking back is the realization of just how many gay writers (and gay men, for that matter) have been lost to AIDS. Yet as Bergman and Woelz note, there's reason to celebrate as well. Many of the voices from the pre-AIDS past are still with us, and still producing vibrant, important work. "We want to underscore this continuity," write Bergman and Woelz. "So much in gay life seems to be a search for new trends, new faces, the next big craze." Yet they also acknowledge that it is this very search for the new that has made gay life and culture so dynamic. *Men on Men* is a mixture of old voices and new voices. It is

also a record of the issues so important to all gay men. Its stories remind us of the continuing shadow of AIDS and the pain of intolerance, but also of the ever-present promise of love, friendship and connection.

The *Men on Men 2000* collection makes good on the promise of its predecessors. Such stories as David Vernon's "Arrival," Bruce Morrow's "Ciccone Youths 1990" and Brian Bouldrey's "The Holy Spirit Bank," for example, each present a separate take on life with AIDS in the '90s and beyond. Vernon's story, in which two friends reunite and reminisce at Disneyland, begins on a somewhat comic note and ends with a rather sobering realization of mortality. The narrator of Morrow's tale is an ailing, alienated African American man who loses himself in a retro-fantasy world of nightlife-loving drag queens. Bouldrey presents one of the most memorable stories in the book. He describes the journey of two lovers who travel around the world to various spas in search of physical healing. Ultimately, they also find the transforming power of love. Bouldrey is masterful in creating a rich sense of place, and in presenting characters who are complex — and surprising.

Bergman and Woelz make special note of the fact that the collection includes a contribution from Edmund White, and they

page 47 ►



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dosing / time / convenience

drug cocktail / work / side effects

why

Can't someone make
HIV THERAPY
less complicated?

food interactions / balance

someone just did!

Once Daily
SUSTIVATM
efavirenz



SUSTIVATM is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Now listed
among preferred
anti-HIV regimens in
government guidelines.

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

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SUSTIVA. It's about time.
www.sustiva.com

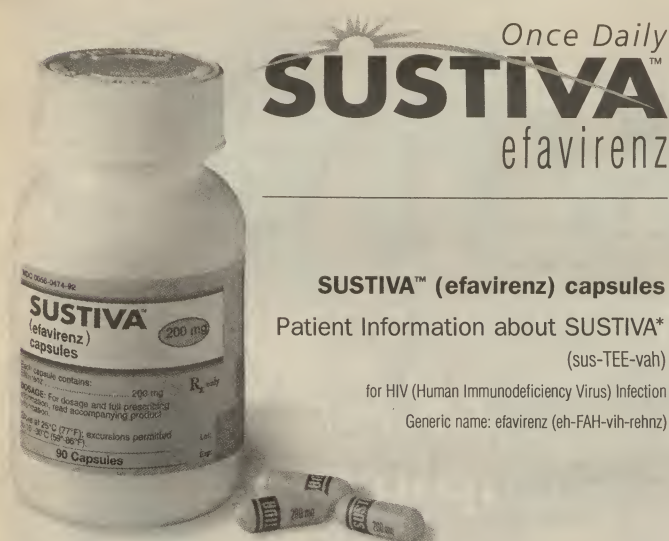
*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>. For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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DUPONT DuPont Pharmaceuticals



SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA™

(sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals

Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998

FILM & MUSIC

Rear Window

◀ page 39

Everything about this film is marvelous. The acting is superb. Kelly plays Lisa smooth and sexy, and as the dramatic tension mounts, we see her peel away the reserve; danger is an intoxicant, and her Lisa exhibits an almost childlike excitement at playing sleuth. Ritter and Cory are veterans, reeling off the wisecracking lines with verve, while Evelyn, without speaking, conveys the tragedy of Miss Lonelyhearts. And Burr is appropriately menacing.

But this is Stewart's tour de force — he's in nearly every minute of the film. One sees his range — he's only been better in *Vertigo* and *Harvey*. He's utterly believable, playing Jeffries as a man used to danger and risk-taking, a man whose identity is inextricably linked to how close to death his camera takes him. In fact, as he tracks the murderer, he uses his equipment — a telephoto here, a viewfinder there. In the denouement, his flashbulbs become his only protection.

As usual, Hitchcock is delving deep into the psycho-sexual. Jeffries is — as a photographer and a man — the ultimate observer, the consummate voyeur. He tells Stella he doesn't want to marry Lisa because he finds her too perfect, but the truth is, he can't attach himself to anything — he's always looking through the lens, always keeping a certain distance from the action. The closeness gives him a *frisson*, but he doesn't want to actually get involved. We learn it was Doyle who flew the plane low enough for Jeffries to get the war photos that landed him his high-paying career. Even as the exquisite Lisa sits in his lap in her designer dresses and silken peignoir, kissing him, he's looking past her, out the window, watching to see what might happen next, what danger might lure him from across the courtyard.

This is a fascinating film, one so beautifully nuanced that each viewing renders more depth. Hitchcock is such a vivid director, every frame has resonance, each line has weight without ever seeming heavy-handed. The characters talk about the ethics of watching other people — Doyle suggests to Jeffries that privacy shouldn't be tampered with as he eyes Lisa's peignoir on the chair.



Director Alfred Hitchcock

Everyone has secrets, he implies, and not everything is as it seems. When Jeffries first tells Lisa what he's been watching, she tells him he's diseased — yet soon she, too, is pulled into his voyeur's web. Lisa and Stella ask each other if it's right to watch — but then reach for the binoculars as Jeffries asks what they see.

Jeffries and Lisa watch Miss Lonelyhearts bring home a man too young for her; we know she's a romantic, we've watched her set the table for an imaginary lover. She wants to be wooed, but this gigolo is out for a quick screw. He's on her in a flash. We see the distaste on Lisa's face and the discomfort on Jeffries'. Later, when Lisa herself is in dire straits, Stella and Jeffries watch but can do nothing. Voyeurism, Hitchcock suggests, is also a form of impotence (symbolized by Jeffries' immobilization in the cast).

The film builds slowly, from the opening shots as the shades are drawn up on the scene we will watch for the next two hours. But as the crescendo builds (and with it, the amazing Franz Waxman score), we are riveted. The denouement takes one to the edge of one's seat as the voyeur becomes unwilling participant in the danger he has so consistently sought — as do we, the audience. Hitchcock catches out everyone in the end. This is brilliant, compelling, suspenseful filmmaking. *Rear Window* is the master at the top of his form. ▼

The restored *Rear Window* plays the Castro Theatre February 4-24.

Fixing 'Window'

◀ page 39

blacks in Grace Kelly's expensive dresses and in a solarized photo of Kelly on Stewart's desk.

Since *Rear Window*'s original camera negative had been worn out striking new prints, Harris and Katz decided on a bold move — to utilize the reinvention of Technicolor's dye transfer printing process to spare the newly restored negative from being instantly used up. Once the team had a good Eastman answer print in hand, the Technicolor people were able to create new printing matrices by running the negative only three times.

Rear Window's sound design was equally pioneering for its time — instead of using a fully orchestrated score throughout the film, Hitchcock had composer Franz Waxman create incidental pieces that the audience can perceive as coming from on screen sources like a radio, phonograph or a composer's piano. (Hitchcock complained to Truffaut that Waxman had disappointed him by failing to simulate

the creation of a piece of music from scratch). The Harris and Katz restoration team had to suffer the consequences of Hitchcock's error in junking many of the original sound elements, and thus were unable to correct some distortions on one channel of the 1954 soundtrack. They did use state-of-the-art technology to get the cleanest soundtrack the film has ever sported.

James Katz is proud of the team's work and feels that a whole generation raised on the adulterated television version of the film will experience the real Hitchcock through a newly cleaned window. Katz was amazed at the master director's many tricks, noting that no matter how many times you watch the film, Hitch is always a step ahead of the most perceptive viewer. Katz adds that he hopes the Technicolor dye transfer process again becomes the industry standard — a development that could spare today's future classic films from the fate of *Rear Window*. Harris and Katz note that the next great film they hope to pull back from the jaws of extinction is the first *Godfather*. ▼

Making history with music

'Black Elvis' and more on disc

by Gregg Shapiro

In honor of Black History Month, here are some CDs to help make February a month full of historically musical moments.

Rolling Stone Magazine called Kool Keith "rap's eccentric genius," and most would agree that that's an appropriate title for the artist whose latest disc is called *Black Elvis/Lost In Space* (Ruffhouse/Columbia/Red Ink). With an approach that would make George Clinton proud, Kool Keith goes into serious orbit on this funky and funny CD.

Perhaps the most mainstream rapper in the history of the genre, Will Smith made hip hop safe for the suburbs. With an impressive array of guest performers (including *Out* magazine's December 1999 cover-girl Lil' Kim, K-Ci, Tatyana Ali, MC Lyte, Biz Markie, Slick Rick, Eve, Dru Hill, Kool

Moe Dee, and DJ Jazzy Jeff) on his latest disc *Willennium* (Columbia), Smith gears up for the future.

Following up his controversial *I am...* disc with *NaStradamus* (Ill Will/Columbia), his second disc in a year, Nas continues to be a source of controversy. Nas, who also gets executive producer credit on *NaStradamus*, enlisted the talents of Ginuwine, Mobb Deep and Ron Isley to assist him on vocal duties on the tracks "You Owe Me," "Family," and "Project Windows," respectively.

"Caught Out There," with its "I hate you so much right" chorus, was one of the most inescapable singles in recent memory. The song, which appears on *Kaleidoscope* (Virgin) by Kelis, is one of the most empowering and memorable rap performances in years. It's also important to note that Kelis also sings (as you know if you've heard "Caught Out There"), and that's always an added bonus for me.

The 18-track *Criminal Justice: From Darkness To Light* (Reprise) by The Temple of Hip Hop Kulture features a wide variety of hip hop artists, the most notable of which is KRS-One. Speaking of "notable," spoken-word artist Carl Hancock Rux's major-label debut disc *Rux Revue* (550 Music/Epic) validates the combination of music and spoken word. This excellent CD surpasses much of what is being passed off as "spoken word." Toshi Reagon produced the track "Elmina Blues Opus."

Some say that imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. If that's the case, then the hip hop community should be flattered by all the rappers who have emerged from outside of the culture. Among them, you will find a mostly Southern quintet known as Justin Hale. Their album *In Formation* (Daemon) features Pam Howe of pH Balance on one track. ▼

Men on Men

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happily "welcome back" the novelist who was one of the first to write for the series. White, whose novels such as *A Boy's Own Story* are classics of gay fiction, here offers "A Venice Story." It's a lyrical tale of two men facing down desire and decline and their respective pasts as they grow older. In theme and locale, at least, White's tale seems to echo Thomas Mann's famous novella *Death in Venice*.

There are a fair number of "coming out" and "coming of age" stories in the collection, and some of the best of these have a strong ethnic flavor. Kelly McQuain's

"Erasing Sonny" shows the emerging sexuality and independence of a young Italian-Irish boy. In J.G. Hayes' "Regular Flatpout," three young Irish American men struggle with class-consciousness and sexual confusion, a mixture that leads to a tragic end for one of them. One of the most beautiful stories in the book is Alexander Chee's "Gold." Setting his story in and around San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, Chee portrays a young man's attempts to come to terms not only with his dawning sexuality, but with the confusion of his mixed-race heritage (half Korean, half Argentine) and the pain of an absent father. Chee's story seems permeated with poignant silences, and his spare prose helps cultivate this mood.

While tales of young men coming of age as gay men are commonplace, those dealing with gay men coming of age as parents are not. The editors have included three of these here. David Tuller's "Sperm-and-Egg Tango" lays out the delicate, emotional dance of a gay man and his lesbian friend as they try to negotiate having a child together. Jim Provenzano's "Quality Time" portrays the relationship between a gay man and his teenage son. And in Craig T. McWhorter's poignant "Silent Protest," two separated gay men share custody of their young daughter. It is in these stories of gay parenthood, as in the others, that the authors have shown us how we've all grown up together, and how that process continues. ▼



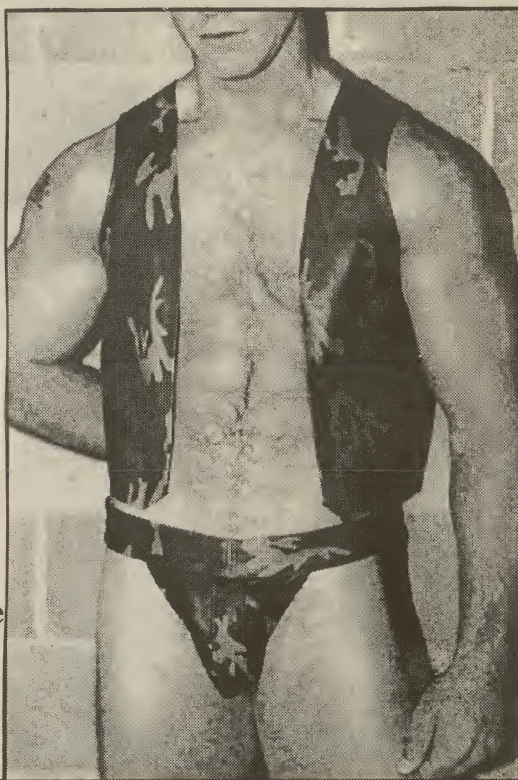
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the art of expression

& Tattoos
By Dave

Here come the judges!

Int'l. Mr. Leather contest judges named

by Mister Marcus

A communiqué from Chicago last week announced the judges for the IML 2000 competition taking place on Memorial Day weekend. All who were invited have accepted the awesome responsibility and are charged with choosing the best qualified man from an expected 60 contestants. Contests at the grass roots level, city, state and regional sites have been in progress since mid-1999, and there are still a dozen or so contests to go before the final roster is complete.

For 2000, all the judges who have judged this particular contest in the past have been re-invited to judge again. They are:

Amy Marie Meek, IML 1993, who is also the producer of the International Ms. Leather competition, from Omaha, Nebraska.

David Kloss, Int'l. Mr. Leather 1979, the first man to hold the Int'l. Mr. Leather title and still very hot. Returning for an encore; from San Francisco, California.

Jimmy Dohr, a long-standing member of the Renslow family and past producer of the Int'l. Mr. Leather contest, in the early years. A delightful person who epitomizes a true Chicagoan and is definitely into the leather scene.

Woody Bebout — International Mr. Drummer 1991, the pride of St. Louis reprises his appearance on the judging panel. Woody has been active in legal affairs affecting the LGBT community and knows what it takes to hold a title of this caliber.

Lauger Valentin, a longtime member of the Centaur Motorcycle Club, Washington, DC, an accomplished ASL interpreter for the deaf community, and a man with a tremendous sense of humor. Mr. Valentin represents the many fraternal organizations who send contestants to the competition, and has worked on the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather competition for many years in many capacities.

Since this is an international competition, the foreign judge hails from Amsterdam: Eduardo Bettega-Curial, owner of the famous Argos bar in Amsterdam.



Ronnie Grigsby (left) was chosen Mr. Santa Clara County Leather, and Lance Moore was named Ms. Santa Clara County Leather last Saturday, January 29 in San Jose. They will both compete at the international level in May and July, respectively.

Eduardo has been involved with the leather competitions in Europe, and has visited the US and other countries extensively. He is an extremely handsome and absolutely charming man's man with a reputation for fairness, understanding and, quite frankly, the fulfillment of many a fantasy.

Int'l. Mr. Leather 1999, Bruce Chopnik, will be afforded the opportunity to participate in the selection of his successor. It's been a lively year with the title, and not without a little controversy. Bruce has stood up for his beliefs and his commitments, whether popular or not. He is his own man, and it can be truthfully said that "he did it his way" — a true leader, and the pride of the leather commu-

nities of the world.

I am thrilled once more to join the panel as Judge Emeritus, with veteran Chief Judge Thom Dombkowski. We have worked side by side for several years now, and I think I speak for both of us when I say it is a privilege and an honor to help usher in the new millennium with some outstanding candidates. Despite health and retirement problems, Thom has managed to get through it all with flying colors, and, as always, will give exceptional guidance and leadership to this year's group of judges. It is an honor to work with "The Chief."

And one more bit of information: the emcees for this year's contest and show are Frank Nowicki of Washington, DC, and his partner for the proceedings, Tom Stice of Atlanta, GA, former International Slave and Mr. Southeast Drummer

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 3

Mr. April 2001 will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse, 2100, with judges Carl Battles, Curt Sanburn and Frank Parker making the decision.

Basket contest at The Edge at 2100 with the usual suspects competing and the Old Bag cackling. Over at Daddy's, Omar & Greg Pennington host a benefit for the GLHS from 2000-2300 with raffle prizes and auction. Don't miss it.

Friday, February 4

Pecs & Nips party at the Powerhouse at 2200 until closing by Chest Men International. Shirtless guys get Foster draft for only \$1. Check it out.

Saturday, February 5

Cal Eagles MC celebrate their 16th anniversary at the Eagle tonight from 1900-2200. Admission by invitation or club overlay. Congratulations!

Monday, February 7

Recruitment party at the Edge for Mr. Edge Leather contestant hopefuls. Find out what it takes to compete and win at this recruitment party.

Tuesday, February 8

Masters & slaves Together gather upstairs at the Lone Star Saloon tonight at 2000. Topic: Building Dungeons. Experts on hand. Hey, it's free!

Wednesday, February 9

Win \$300 cash and a studded title vest if you win the Mr. Edge Leather 2000 title. Werner Tillingier steps down from this one, and the winner will compete for the Mr. SF Leather 2000 title.

The Ring presents "Securing Someone to a Vertical Support." Doors 1830-1900 only. Call 437-0883 for invite, location; or e-mail to: the_ring@ix.netcom.com.

Thursday, February 10

Robert Hernandez steps aside for his successor, as Mr. Daddy's Leather 2000 contest gets underway at 2100. Win \$200 cash, studded title vest, and a chance to compete for Mr. SF Leather in March.

Weekend, February 11-13

Mr. Heartland Leather Contest in Columbus, Ohio all weekend. Pam Meyer and I will join the judging panel. Also, Portland Uniform Weekend by the AUA and In Uniform magazine. More details next week!

PORN

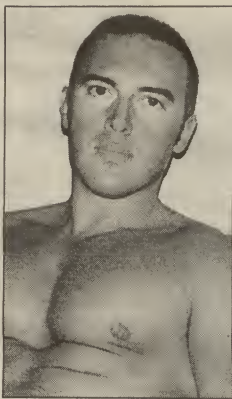
Close Up quartet

by John F. Karr

Close Up Productions bring us kink and fetish, mild bondage and non-scary SM. Their product, while devoid of plotlines and production value frills, is almost always dependable, as demonstrated by a handful of their recent releases. First is another in their series of excerpt videos, *Sling Shots*, which stars passionate and ends kinky. It includes a tight succession of seven different sling scenes excerpted from full-length videos. It makes a swell sampler for fuck fans, and a great party tape.

The highlight here for me is the opener, with big-dicked B.J. Slater topping hungry Randy Storm. Their tight connection, whispered dirty talk, and the deep and full fuck Slater drills into Storm that has him moaning throughout are memorable. Subsequent scenes depict a variety of guys, including a cherubic boy, some severe tops, a brief fourway, and a boot slave. Matt Gunther and Trenton Comeaux fulfill the handsomeness quotient, and Rob Cryston and partner are two slick dudes whose leather cockrings pump their shiny cocks up thick and purple while they do some passionate kissing and cocksucking. The finale brings a surprising scene from Donnie Russo and his Bronx pig bottom. Russo first reduces the guy to helplessness by tickling the bottoms of his feet mercilessly, then whipping him, dildoning him, gagging his mouth, and making him snort like a pig.

Steven Walker's *Pleasant Master* starts with husky favorite Dean Spencer spread-eagled in a suspension rack, with his Master paying special attention to his fleshy nipples. Dean's chubby, uncut, cockringed cock appeals to me, and the heavy titclamps he has to endure work my nerves. Spencer's elongated torso looks swell stretched on this rack, and



Dean Spencer pleases his master

his cock dangles free and heavy between his spread legs, where his Master can torture it, hanging heavy chain from his balls. No Spencer scene is complete without some dildo action, which here produces a lot of cum.

Tug 'n' frug

Cock Lock, another Steven Walker video, may not be urgent, but it's a solid offering — especially if you're into titclamps and the hard-ons that result when they're tugged. Stern top Lex Kyler has handsome brunette Michael Vista shackled to an upright frame. A transparent thread of pre-cum slithers from Vista's hard cock as Kyler chews his neck, pinching his nipples and pulling the balls that are severely distended by a wide ball-stretcher. Kyler adds tit clamps, making Vista moan. The weights hanging from the chain between the clamps greatly distend Vista's nipples, and Kyler bounces them against the boy's chest, and makes him lean forward, so their full weight is exerted. It's great tit action, and Vista thinks so, too, rearing his butt back against Kyler's jock-cov-

ered hard-on. Proceeding to assplay, the pair's stiff cocks are prominently featured during paddling, flogging, slow rimming, and especially, a slow and assured fuck which accelerates excitingly. It's an especially successful playroom scene, and is accompanied by a briefer turn from another pair. This is distinguished chiefly by a greatly visible penetration, with the boy jacking off to orgasm as he's fucked.

Sex Play by Russo 2 is the second anthology of the star's many performances for Close Up director Steve Johnson, and provides some well-chosen clips from a half-dozen videos, augmented by a newly shot finale that features Russo with Jack Simmons. It's a good scene, with Simmons as the top, using his big cock to fuck Russo to orgasm — Russo sits on that big thing and rides it, his hard dick bobbing stiffly, cum dripping from his piss slit. The video opens with a clip from *Roughed Up in Boston*, in which Russo is a fetishist's delight, with his taste for bondage, humiliation and dirty talk in clear display, along with his enthusiastic attitude and shaved groin. *Roughed Up at the Spike* brings us a good cocksucking sequence with Hank Hightower and Dallas Taylor, before a strong three-way fuck atop one of the bar's videogames. From *Slave Camp* comes a strong duo with Robbie Cryston, while *Slave Workshop Boston* messes up the usually pristine Danny Sommers in a greasy bondage and abuse scene. I like best the solid fuck Russo throws the always-effective Spike, in a scene from *Wet Fantasy*. One of the video's most interesting aspects is the way it depicts the changes Russo has undergone over the years. He's looking a little grizzled now, and has enough tattoos down his arms to pass for an ex-con. It's a new type of (low-class) attractiveness for the slutty fun he has with sex. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ page 48

1998. This team-up should prove to be quite entertaining.

There you have it. My exclusive scoop (so far) this year. I hope you are all gearing up for the first major competition of the millennium. Quite frankly, I wouldn't miss this one, if I were you!

Busy by the Bay

It was hush all over the place 27, four men trooped to the stage at the Powerhouse (Jerome Brandenhoff, Heinz Dameron, Scott Moore and Mark Seeba) and faced judges Eric Keith, Paul Mofitt, Jerry Roberts and Randy Wright in their quest for the March 2001 spot on next year's bare chest calendar. Raunchy repertoire ensued, but in the end, Mark Seeba won the spot on the calendar, with Mr. Brandenhoff the runner-up.

Saturday afternoon, a celebration of the life of Grant Dupont took place at Daddy's. Donna Sachet opened the ceremony with both a poignant and an upbeat number fitting the occasion. I was honored to be the first speaker, followed by Carlos Larranaga and Vern Stewart, both of whom flew in for the occasion. I had to leave for San Jose before the ceremony ended, but it was a fitting tribute indeed!



Mark Seeba, a former calendar and cover man, won the March 2001 Bare Chest Calendar spot last Thursday, January 27. Mr. April 2001 will be selected on Thursday, February 3 at the Powerhouse Bar.

Sash rash epidemic

At least four new names were added to the sash roster last weekend, as the drive toward Int'l. Mr. Leather and Intl. Ms. Leather gets a growing number of candidates. In Vancouver, Mr. BC Leather was chosen on Saturday night, but no report at my deadline. In St. Petersburg, Florida, Earl Thomas beat out four other men to receive

the Mr. Suncoast Eagle Leather 2000 title. Judges Bruce Chopnik, Fraser Picard, David Allen, Butch Arnold and Bob Graves didn't have an easy time of it.

"Back to Black" was the theme of the Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather 2000 contest held on Saturday night in downtown San Jose. Three men (Mike Tallmadge, Glen Fidi and Ronnie Grigsby) and two women (Kyra and Lance Moore) braved it with Judges David Kloss, John Rochat, Snarlin Spector. After the speeches, revealing attire, question-and-answer and pre-judging interviews, Ronnie Grigsby was announced as Mr. Santa Clara Co. Leather, and Ms. Lance Moore was named Ms. Santa Clara Co. Leather. They will both advance to the international competition in May and July, respectively. The event raised \$2,004 for VNA, The San Diego Six and the Billy DeFrank Community Center. Bravo!

In Los Angeles, five men vied for the Mr. Faultline 2000 title in the patio of that bar on Saturday night. Daddy Mikal Bales of Zeus Studios presided over the other judges, Taurus Webster, Joe Umbrino, Will Clark and Will Hildreth. When it was all over, Doug Bedard emerged as the winner, with Joseph Powers the runner-up. Doug will compete for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2000 title on Sat., March 18th at the El Rey Theater. Details to be announced. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Sexy Muni Man Dec. 30
Embarcadero, 7:00pm, you standing, me sitting. You got off Van Ness. You dark hair, tie. Me: salt/pepper, blue eyes. Dinner? You are sexy! ☎ 71365

New Years Eve Fireworks
***** ME ***** leaving
smiled at each other twice, then waived. Like to meet? ☎ 71406

Howard BB Sat. 01-01
You 24 hour-Mr world. Wish I got your number. Please call. Rick. ☎ 71402

Hillsdale Mall Sat. AM 30th
You: good-looking, dk beard, thin. Me: sweatshirt & jeans, boots, wolder guy. We locked eyes for a long time. I can't stop thinking about you... ☎ 71366

Tuesday, Dec 14 Steamworks 6pm
SIDE: "I SHOULD HAVE JOKED ON OUR WAY" 71451

Jason-New Years Eve Late Nite
Wanted to tell you how handsome I looked when we chatted at the muni stop in the Castro on Eve of 2000. Let's do lunch or dinner- Contact David ☎ 71403

Solstice Party 12-25
Caught your eye twice. Once when you were in the sling, then again while on your back in the jail cell. So big man, please us both and call me. ☎ 71405

jockstrap underneath. ☎ 71476

TimfromrichmondsteamworksJan21
I had a blast and can't believe I got confused where to meet you for that ride to bart. Hope you catch this we can finish what we started, Ron. ☎ 71477

Steamworks-Friday Jan 14
You: sexy tall brwny bald WM w/blonde goatee. Me: lean, toned light BM. We took long showers next to each other. I was leaving, but want to meet you! ☎ 71452

***** I want ***** exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

Gala Mkt 18th St, 1/20 4:45PM
You: Goodlooking brn hair, tan slacks, clean shave, w/cart, hunkle, white car, Buick? Only bought 1 veggie, me: goodlooking Noe Valley, both 40ish? ☎ 71475

Downtown Thur 12/30
1:30p. You: Asian w/brn leather jacket. Me: Caucasian/blk jacket. Walking down Market/Embarcadero. Wanted to say hello to you, but shy. I blew it. You're gorgeous. Please call. ☎ 71404

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

ISO Adventurous Outdoors Guy
WM, attrax, 5'7", 150#, 48, neg. likes: hiking, camping, rodeos, motorcycles, adventure, passion and big hearts. ☎ 71179

Seeking Hispanic/Blond Blue 18-21yrs.
Prefer significant other/friends HIV-. No overweights/fems. I'm Hispanic, blk. hr. brn. eyes. olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV- considered good looking comments made. ☎ 71180

Good Catch!
GWM, 41, 6'3", 220# financially secure HIV-, recently out of LTR. Seeks 35-45y.o., HIV- dark, hairy, top. Like movies, entering & good times, no drugs, alcohol ok. ☎ 71181

If You're Gonna Suck Cock...
Then be so good at it your guys don't even fantasize fucking you! always cum back for more, is my motto! What's yours? ☎ 71182

Penis Bondage-Erotic Chastity
Tight confinement, many days without cumming, prolonged sensual arousal. Seeking partner for deep intense involvement, delicate beginning, gradual development. WM 53, 5'8", 170#, solid workout body, bald short hair/beard. ☎ 71183

GAM Seeking GWM For LTR
Handsome, masculine GAM, 38, 5'9", 135lbs. seeks in-shape GWM 30-45, HIV- college educated. Prefer facial hair, hairy body, versatile, SF, leather. ☎ 71367

Powerlifter Seeks Husky Latino
Beefy, fit, successful, 50's WGM wanted for LTR by GWM, 36, 6'-295lbs. Brown hair/eyes, goatee, love food, travel, gym. For monogamous relationship. ☎ 71368

Ain't Misbehavin'
Firm, fit, successful, Leo top w/8"solid manmeat. Saving love and intimacy for bottom that values same: be 40-55, HIV+, kind, LTR. ☎ 71369

Secure Man Looking For Company
Attractive, successful, 50's WGM in search of 40ish same. Career prospects for a good life offered in exchange for monogamous companionship. ☎ 71370

New Millennium Opportunity:
GBM, 44 n/s HIV-, bright, conversational top, ISO HIV-, masculine bottom 30s-40s, Arts, Collectible interests A+. ☎ 71371

More Than Surface
Seeks similar for friendship and/or LTR. In-depth, intelligent person with a zeal for being. You: someone w/ depth and the need to understand life more. ☎ 71372

HIV+ ISO Fit GWM For Dating
We're stable, motivated, productive, masculine, socially aware, professional, good looking, gym toned. We like home, leather, versatility, synergy, tough, travel, humor. You're 35-45, n/s, lean, secure, honest, seeking dad. ☎ 71410

GWM Nice Guy
31, 6.0 170lbs HIV- Honest, sincere, healthy, masculine, enjoy movies, drugs, theater, cuddling and real

Cinderella/Seeks/Prince/Charming
Sonoma fellow available for castle upkeep & romance. Me: 41, br/blu, 180 HIV+ fun, fit you could be: dark, dom., hairy, husky. 40-50, sincere affectionate & mature. ☎ 71412

Brave Sexy Boy 49 Sks Lean Fit
Rough budy/dad to tie me down, beat me, fuck me, keep my nipples sore, piss-feed me, make me stay shaved & horny. 5'8 1/2", 152, work out, uncut, buzzed/brn-gray, goatee, bl/glasses, cock-hungry. NS/nd exc. pot, pls. ☎ 71413

GWM Seeks Latino
Youthful 55yr old GWM ISO gay Latino man 18-45 who enjoys sensuous deep throat action. Masc., trim, clean uncut A+. ND. LTR possible. Movies and dinner out. ☎ 71414

Slim Or Muscle
I'm a lingerie designer for men only. From g-strings to body suits. You attractive males 18-25 sexual, safe play. No fats, friends good teeth, HIV-, clean hygiene. ☎ 71415

S.F. Officers
Seeking honest serious friends. You 18-35, HIV-, clean hygiene, swollen nipples, good teeth, round butt. GBM, 48, 5'10", ch. 49" No fats nor drugs. ☎ 71416

S.F. Firemen
Hard working gay firemen for serious friends. You HIV-, clean hygiene, good teeth, round butt, submissive, big swollen nipples, 18-25 only. No fats. ☎ 71417

EB WM Seeks HM For?
Friendship/more? 35yo attr. WM seeks HM 30-40 for dinner, movies, dancing. Give a call, you have nothing to lose. ☎ 71418

HIV BLK #170, 5'10"
In reasonably good physical condition, seeking 1on1 interaction. You small to med build, tall or short thin to lean body type. Bottom A+, no bears or bears types! ☎ 71419

GAM Seeks GWM 65 And Over
For long term relationship. Please call Alan. I am 48, average build. ☎ 71420

Mulatto Guy:
Good looking, intelligent, creative. Looking for financially secure and stable male for friendship, a relationship or more. ☎ 71421

ISO Outdoors GBM LTR Potential
Cute GWM 25yo/6'1" 140lb brown eyes dark hair slender build from San Jose area, prof and intelligent, ISO older African American for tennis, skiing and outdoors. ☎ 71374

Masochist Still Seeks
Chinese sadist for bodyplay (clothespins, spanking, etal), restrictive rope bondage and humiliation. I am muscular in-shape blonde 5'10", 165# and 32. Must be broad-minded, friendly, sincere and seeking long-term friendship. ☎ 71407

Lean For Lean
GWM, 41, 6'165lbs, HIV+, Italian/German, short brown hair, goatee, bottom seeks lean Caucasian top to 50. Into metaphysics, butt play, country/western, golden showers, massage. ☎ 71408

Seeking Native Russian-Speaker
Bi WAM American, 51, 178cm, 80k, fluent in Russian, affectionate, versatile, discrete, well-endowed, looking for native Russian-speaker (younger A+) for friendship, mutual pleasure, massage. ☎ 71409

Sexy Student Seeks Patron
Hot 25yo/5'11", 150lbs. slim muscular gym toned body, 8 thick inches, seeks generous relationship w/ financially secure man or couple serious only please. ☎ 71453

Handsome Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, well-endowed into who is honest, romantic and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 71455

Seeking Romance
GWM 55, 6'5" 260 HIV- top looking for SWM, 35+ HIV- bottom for romance and play. Aroma smoke ok. Call. ☎ 71456

Need a Boy?
Cute, Latino boy looking for daddy. In S.F. Please call, you won't be sorry! ☎ 71373

You Can Call Me Sir
Hairy, handsome, in shape top leather man, 50, looking for a submissive, good looking bottom boy who wants to have fun, suck tool, and get his ass fucked. ☎ 71457

ISO My Red Hot Valentine
You: GWM or GWM, HIV-, 35-45, enjoys movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: A sweet & spicy GWM, HIV-, 41, 5'9", 175lbs. reddish brn/blu Pls. call. ☎ 71458

New Millennium Opportunity:
GBM, 44 n/s HIV-, bright, conversational, top, ISO HIV-, masculine bottom 30s-40s, Arts, Collectible interests A+. ☎ 71478

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Hot Frenchman!
French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe. ☎ 71479

Long Lean GWM Boyface Big XXXX
Adventurous affectionate 6'1", 175#, br/gr, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own apartment, 33, swim, hike, cook, muscums, nude massage, romantic b & b's or "Thelma and Louise" road trips. ☎ 71454

Rugged Guy Seeks Rugged Guy
Handsome half Latino gardener, 48, 5'8", neg, seeks attrac GWM for dating. Including movies, food, travel, reading + just fun. Let's keep open minds as we enjoy getting acquainted. ☎ 71480

...If You Need Love+Hard Sex.
I'm 36y.o. 5'7", 140lbs. lean muscle, brn, long hair. Masculine, handsome, easy-going. Into 40, HIV-neg. Enjoy everything. Looking 4 GM, under 40's, w/nice round butt. No fats or drugs. ☎ 71481

Romantic Hairy Italian
Handsome, WM, 6'170lbs, br/br, 42, healthy, HIV-neg; good sense of humor; seeks same; a potential boyfriend willing to explore and get to know each other, smoke /light drink ok. ☎ 71482

YummyShyGuy
GWM 6'2", 195, 44(looks 30's), and totally edible. The quiet ones are sometimes the best buddies. Also the hottest. Versatile, love oral, n/s, HIV-. Tell me what you want. ☎ 71483

Hola! GLM
40yr. old GWM, 5'10", 180lb. blond, hairy-chested, HIV-neg, seeking in-shape GLM, up to 40, HIV-neg, for dating, romance, LTR- smooth, goat-tee A+. ☎ 71484

You're 4 Me!
GWM, 41y.o, 215#, seeks 35-45y.o. hairy top. I'm financially secure, outgoing, like movies & music, entertaining & "the good life". HIV- only please. ☎ 71485

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34y/o black hair, brown eyes, goat-tee professional looking for GWM between 26-40y/o for friendship, or more. I like: hiking, dinner, traveling. Just call me. ☎ 71486

Single Attractive 28
I'm Latino, 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark hair, smooth, seeking Latinos, Asians, or Whites under 40 for friendship or build monogamous LTR. ☎ 71487

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Cum On My Face
East Bay White male, 35, looking for big, cut and shaved cock and balls for oral services. ☎ 71375

Rugged Guy
Masculine, clean-cut, athletic Asian, 52, 5'9", 155, smooth swimmer's body, seeks clean-shaven, lean or muscular smooth WM for hot, sensual body and oral workouts. ☎ 71376

5'4" Boyish Asian
Boyish Asian seeks smooth gym toned well endowed WM for safe fun. Also likes massage and hot tubbing. Blondes a plus. ☎ 71379

Submissive Black Bottom
Seeks top dominant aggressive, verbal, raunch, kink, sleaze +, available & some weekends. ☎ 71381

In Shape Professional GWM ISO
Trim GWM under 35 receive intense front and rear oral action. LTR possible. ☎ 71388

Naked Riders Hop On This Attractive Mediterranean 30y,
5'10", 145lb, in-shape, dk haired & hairy, hot, uncult, top. Be h/wt proportionate, clean & ready for a deep plow. ☎ 71382

Your Personal Cockucker
Regular deep-throat service for 20-40 years old, well hung, discreet, friendly guy, any race. No bears please. I'm 30+ HIV+ GWM, nice looking. Any questions? ☎ 71383

Sex Soul Mate
Seeking taller, smoother males who enjoy lots of physical contact, kissing, massaging, sucking and cumming. I'm 49, gym, br/bl, 6'3", 170. ☎ 71384

Seeking Senior J/O Partner
Masculine mature attractive WM wants to watch you j/o on my face letting it stay there while you jerk me off. ☎ 71385

Jackoff Busted Str8 Or Gay
I love stroking cock. In a porno theater, I slowly open your fly, then get your cock excited...keep you on the edge of a cum. ☎ 71386

Seeks Bondage And Flogging
Lean, athletic, 45, friendly seeks bondage and flogging. Reciprocal possible. ☎ 71387

34yo Sexy French Traveller
6', 160#, hairy, seeks in-shape, masculine, hot men, 20-40 to share safe, fun times. Any race. Ready to enjoy some unusual ways to practice sex. ☎ 71389

Attractive, Athletic, Smooth Asian
Male wants to receive firm, full-body, long, erotic oil massages on every part of my nude body. From experienced or licensed masseurs. Prefer weekdays, day times & early evenings. No \$ involved. ☎ 71390

Boy 49 Loves To Mouth-Worship
Top buddy's balls, dick, & hole. Strong quiet tongue job or sweaty slimy throat fuck for fit, sexy, in-shape, in-charge man any age/race. 5'8 1/2", 152 uncult, buzzed/brown-gray, goat-tee, b/glasses, work out. Let's connect. NS/nd pls. ☎ 71422

Cleancut GWM Top ISO Playmate
Handsome, furry, amiable fellow (35, 6', 175, nicely-equipped, HIV+) seeks trim, articulate, insatiable but presentable natty boy for misadventures: carnal, social, cinematic, literary, quite possibly romantic, but mostly carnal. ☎ 71423

Hung Black Oakland Guy, 46
Unwinds with a beer and a deep throat around his mocha manhood. No voicemail, beeper or work phone's. Moustache (but no other facial hair) a big plus. ☎ 71424

Seeking A Mature Man Of Color
Me: Irish/Italian, 37, HIV-, 5'7", 140, brown, blue, cute, boyish, clean shaven, witty, charming and intelligent. Sexually versatile, very oral, bubble butt bottom, nice uncult dick. ☎ 71425

Naked Ecstasy
Soothing full body massage available for free for slim masculine boys from your early 20's to your early 40's by slim masculine WM 42. ☎ 71377

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms 18-39
Wanted by 55yr old White top. 6'0" 160lbs drk brn hair brn eyes big 9" cut cock HIV+ seeks hot White or Latino bottoms to HIV+ who like to get fucked. ☎ 71380

Looking For Irishman
Who placed ad #71086 a few weeks ago. You: looking for oral service in Castro area. Me: the answer to your wish. Please call- you'll be glad you did. ☎ 71378

FF Top
GBM need FF bottom into toys, w/s, rim, videos playmates. ☎ 71433

GWM Bear Seeks Black Men
36, 250#, 5'9", blond, bearded, seeking Black men to orally service. Age/looks not important. Large/chubby men especially desired. Peninsula. ☎ 71426

Seeking Latin Top
Masculine, well built, bottom looking for sex starved Latin top, 35-45 for on-going sessions in S.F. Oral, anal, nasty, let's do it... ☎ 71427

Sex Grave Asian ISO Play Boys
Happy partnered chub look for hot sex. Week days, afternoon. Oakland area. Any race. 35-45, HIV- your place, no string. Relax, discreet, poss long term, sex deal. ☎ 71428

Asian And Filipino Bottoms Yea
Let me tongue & cock fuck your hot Asian ass. 37yr GWM, Italian, neg. Great looks & body. I want to be your top! Call Now! ☎ 71429

Lean Muscular GWM Submissive
Into rope bondage and TT. I'm 31, br hair, bi eyes. Be around my age or younger, and clean cut. Tie me up! ☎ 71430

J/O Buddy
GWM, 48, 6'3", 180, seeks trim mutual j/o partner. Non-hairy plus. ☎ 71431

Well Endowed Black Men
Who need a sub White guy for regular servicing. Me: 5'8" 155 hairy stache. Your pleasure will be my pleasure. ☎ 71432

Masculine, Muscular, & Massage
GWM, attractive, 6', 170lbs, br/br, healthy, 41, HIV-; seeks guy for quiet interludes at my place in SF. You're slim, clean, HIV-, smooth, and maybe hung? Pls call. ☎ 71434

Sonoma County Top
42, 5'9" 170 hairy, hung, positive seeking Mexican/Latino bottom 30-50, slim preferred. Must like Ass-ple! ☎ 71435

Seeking Men Of Color
Handsome BM, 31, wants to suck your dick. Other scenarios possible but unnecessary. If your lucky, I'll come back. HIV- men of color only. ☎ 71436

Robert Of Palo Alto Head Giver
To guys under 45 with average to large cock w/no recip... Up in Redwood City to Sunnyvale. I'm 41, 190 husky bottom. ☎ 71437

Looking For Fun
Goodlooking, GWM, HIV+ (very healthy), 42y/o, 187lbs, and 6ft, seeks other goodlooking men for fun times. All nationalities welcome. Please no men over 40. ☎ 71438

Want To Meet Top Fist Pals
Attractive bottom guy ISO nasty minded top fister. My hole needs small to medium hands. I like dirty talk, all ages, types. Just really enjoy playing with a man's hole. ☎ 71439

South Bay J/O Adict Buddies
GWM, 32, thin, chronic masturbator, jacks naked for hours, days. Wants like-minded buddies for repeated, obsessive, cum-spurring marathon sessions. Under 35, trim. South Bay A+. ☎ 71440

Gay Artists Wanted!
I am looking for gay artists to discuss their art and also to get together for fun good times. Contact me. ☎ 71441

Hung Guys Wanted!
I am looking for guys who are hung "9" or more for fun and good times. Call me and we'll get together. ☎ 71442

Versatile In Sonoma County
Nice-looking, fun, generous, healthy, middle-aged GWM loves giving and receiving head and rimming. Prefer slender, 18-35, but open to anything. ☎ 71468

Italian Guys!
I am looking for Italian guys of all types for fun, relationship, friendship or sex; If hung A+. If not, it's ok. Call ☎ 71443

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM 35, 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk wants good looking masculine men to pump. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 71449

A Great Sexual Relationship
Me: 6'2" 29yo, 185lbs, attractive, gym toned, well endowed, top, HIV-, PBM You: 23-39yo, 5'9" + HIV-, in good shape, attractive, single, a clean light bottom. Any race, Bk or Puerto Rican A+. ☎ 71460

Face Fucker Wanted For Oral Action
GWM, 50, HIV+, 5'10", 170lbs, s/p buzz cut, uncult ISO easy going men 40-60 for hot oral times, size not imp. Enthusiasm is, bears and beards A+. ☎ 71461

Fist Fuck Bottom In Santa Rosa
Looking to meet FFT's in Sonoma County. Have hot hole will travel or come by. Be horny for some cool fist-acting. Those with enthusiasm get my hole to use. ☎ 71462

Mature Hairy Man Sought
By masc. GWM 6'1" 210 smooth, oral expert with nipple fetish. HIV-. Smart, funny easy going smoker- needing Hot Sex encounters. ☎ 71463

Submissive Man Wanted
Attr. Young looking-acting 70's GWM seeks gld/g 18-45 gay, bi, or straight (will teach) man for various fantasies: daddy-son, master-slave, pig boy, etc. ☎ 71464

East Bay White Male
ISO males, preferably EB, but all considered age/race open. I am healthy, mature, HIV-, 5'8", 155. Rob ☎ 71465

A Common Interest Wanted
Average GWM professional, HIV- 50's s/p hairy, non-gym, Greek active, French active/passive, cut hard, looking for GWM professional and avid fan of handjob series. ☎ 71466

Ass Licker
If yer a young, muscular, hot, masculine dude, this 50y/o handsome, hairy, muscular guy would love to eat your butt out while I jack off. ☎ 71467

Uncult Hung-9 Hairy Masc Musc
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, versatile dad, balding, seek fit man with great butt, nipple work, nice legs, nice cock, verbal talk, light s&m, rough, tender, rugged, kiss & cuddle. HIV-, poz ok. I shall visit S.F. in March from east coast. ☎ 71469

Auditions Are Underway
To locate the best cock-sucker. Winner gets a sweet shot from Oakland's blackest and juiciest. No voicemail, paper or work phone #s. Moustache a big plus. No beginners. ☎ 71470

Boys Just Wanna Have Fun!
Single, attractive, healthy in-shape youthful 40's GWM, 5'9", 160, brown/brown, moustache, versatile SF resident seeks friendship or more from honest, horny, independent, fun-seeking hunk. ☎ 71471

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; you: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71488

Lonely Asian
57", 135, uncult, smooth. Seeks GWM, fit, 25-40 for safe hot action. Desperately need pampering. ☎ 71491

White Tool 4 Asian Bottom Boys
Sexy hung 36y.o. clean stud with 8" cut tool is available in S.F. weekdays for this stud to be service by slim young Azn bottoms. ☎ 71498

Hungry For Muscle Worship
Need to engage in muscle fantasy. Worship with arrogant muscle gods-Me 30's gld/g. 6'3" 190 bl/blu in-shape. Want to be slave to b's only. All races. Lake Tahoe, Sac, S.F., Reno. Will travel. Age 25-45. ☎ 71492

Covered In Body Hair?
Handsome, muscular GWM, 37, 5'11", 175, seeks men 30-50, height and weight in proportionate who are extremely hairy. (Thick hair covering your back, chest, arms, etc) for safe body rubbing. ☎ 71493

Hot Top Bi White Stud Needs
Weekday hot sex encounters in S.F. You must be slim. Smooth, Asian, & want to be 100% bottom for 100% top young stud. ☎ 71494

ISO Mouth And Throat Stretcher
If you have a really big, thick, juicy tool, I turn into a pig! Talk nasty to me while I gobble up your stud piece of meat. Extra thick, A+. ☎ 71495

Wanted Skinny Cocks-East Bay
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2 Tops 17" inches of Tol 4 Azn
We are GWM, 37, 5'10", 160#, 8" cut & GLM, 26, 5'9", 145#, 9" uncult. Both clean & both tops. Need Azn bottom boys in S.F. for daytime hot sex. ☎ 71497

Shut Up And Fuck
35 WM 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk (48" ch 32" w 18" arms) wants good looking masculine men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 71498

Black And White XXX Sex & Fun!
GWM, 46, 5'11", 175, goodlooking, masculine, healthy, uninhibited, hung thick, HIV+ bottom seeks GWM for hot J/O, videos, nude beaches. Watch me beat my big thick meat. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71499

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Energetic & eager oral WM with hot mouth & tongue. Me: 37, 5'8", 130, hungry. You: 30-50, in shape, white pissers+ + +. ☎ 71394

Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top, GWM, good looking, 41, 5'8", 155, in-shape, seeks submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage and play. Safe, discreet, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. Bi ok. ☎ 71395

Over-The Knee Spanking Needed!
Stern lecture, old-fashioned corporal punishment w/hand, paddle, belt on the seat of my pants, underwear & bare butt (w/pants & shorts pulled down) required to make this GWM, 40's behave. Authoritative discipline A+. Thank you sir! ☎ 71396

Cowboy Leather
Chaps, vest, hat, boots, spurs, crops, whips, gloves. Have a western looking for men with same. ☎ 71473

Looking For Serious Nipple Workout
45yr old GWM nipple pig, grn/bm, salt & pepper, goat-tee, tits & piercing, seeking serious nipple pig buddy for kick ass bi play with growth in mind! pumping, weights, clamps. Call! ☎ 71397

Safe But Painful SM/BD
GWM, 42, 5'10", 175lbs, br/br into play that involves some discomfort. ISO bottoms, but will negotiate w/taunted tops. Ethnicns, men of color welcomed. In-shape 20's-50's preferred. ☎ 71398

Spread-Eagle
Need to be tied spread-eagle to your bed, to be played with, sensually tortured for long slow milkings while I writhe sweat, flex, moan for your enjoyment, mutual top. ☎ 71444

Spread That Crotch
Masculine, red head with uncult cock and hairy legs, likes to eat ass, suck cock, into s&m. ☎ 71445

Extreme Raunch Action
Picking up on wins, derelicts & homeless studs? Looking for other masculine men into extreme raunch action, open to all scenes. ☎ 71446

Can You Suck Yourself?!
I want to watch you deep throat your cock. Throw your legs over your head and suck your hard cock. Flexible big cock self sucking exhibitionists needed. ☎ 71447

Spanking And Affection
GWM, 49, 5'10", 170, bearded + hairy into hot sensual, give + take spanking, kissing, cuddling, j/o seeks GWM under 50 for fun + friendship. ☎ 71448

Pit Buddy
6', 195, 40, healthy, looking for buddy who likes to have his pits serviced as much as I enjoy servicing them. Mutual great, any age. Discreet, on-going or one time. ☎ 71449

Punch Your Hole
Young top seeks FFB into heavy duty piston punching and 2 hand hole stretching. Sloppy hole a must. A+ for facial hair, Latino, smoker. ☎ 71472

Bootlicking Fetish
Older, generous guy seeks studs to age 40 who will allow him to lick and polish boots. Especially excited by military, police and cowboy attire. ☎ 71474

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GWM couple (48 & 44) seeking another couple for fun and social evenings of Bridge (Party/Chicago). ☎ 71400

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Gerontius

◀ page 37

ances. New Zealander Keith Lewis made a last-minute substitution for ailing tenor Thomas Moser in the role of Gerontius, and was quite effective. His voice was not always perfect at the top, but he possesses a clarion quality that was just right for the part, and he conveyed the hero's pain and simple devotion believably.

Bass Eric Halfvarson was a major disappointment in the dual roles of the Angel of the Agony and the Priest. He, too, was ailing and probably should not have appeared, but it was too late to make a change, and he tried painfully to "trooper" his way through the night. When the final curtain calls came, he refused to take a bow; his voice had

strangled with laryngitis long before then. It earned him some sympathy, but his dismal performance was a serious blot on the evening.

Still, it was Runnicles and the Chorus who made the whole affair ultimately so compelling. Gerontius is, after all, a moving work when done with such conviction. The 100 minutes flew by timelessly and made us wonder at the composer's remarkable solutions to such daunting musical problems as the enactment of a brief glimpse of the Almighty, and the bridge from life to death. Program annotator and pre-concert lecturer, the always enjoyable Michael Steinberg summed things up nicely when he commented that you don't have to be Jewish to like Levy's rye bread, and it is not necessary to be a Catholic to love *The Dream of Gerontius*. ▼

Book Report

◀ page 38

to publish smaller guides but more of them — at least two a year. The first two are scheduled for October 2000, *Willetta's Guide to Private Eye Novels* and *Willetta's Guide to Police Detective Novels*. In 2001, perhaps we'll do legal, medical or historical mysteries. Think of the possibilities — guides to animal mysteries, cooking mysteries, British mysteries, California mysteries, art mysteries, and on and on. Job security forever!

I also hope to get my data base online at www.purplemoonpress.com and do some major promotion for one of my newest creations, Mystery Series Week, a week in early October dedicated to the celebration of continuing characters in detective fiction. Watch for news about the 3rd Annual Mystery Series Week October 1-7, 2000.

Will there ever be a list of dead writers who continue to be popular and published (e.g., Agatha Christie)?

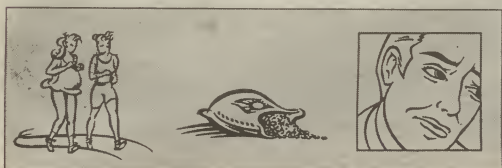
Close to 100 dead women

mystery writers were included in *Detecting Women 2*, but we took them out to make room for all the new authors in the 3rd edition. You'll find the dead women from *DW2* (along with their characters) listed in Appendix A of the 3rd *Detecting Women*.

Is there a question you wished I asked because you had a great answer? Now's your chance.

One of the most wonderful things that has happened to me since my name started appearing on book covers is finding other women named Willetta. Until 1994, the only Willetta I knew was my own wonderful mother, the Rev. Willetta B. Heising. I've now met Willettas in Montana, New York, Ohio and Tennessee; found a Willetta Street in Phoenix, and discovered a mystery writer named Willetta Ann Barber. We all have the same story. None of us had ever met another Willetta. What a treat! ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to peiferd@aol.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



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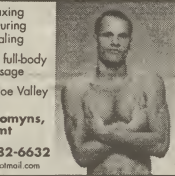
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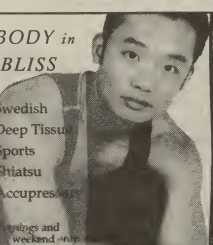
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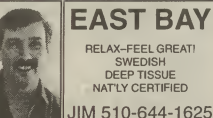


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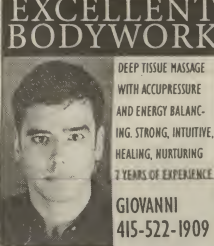
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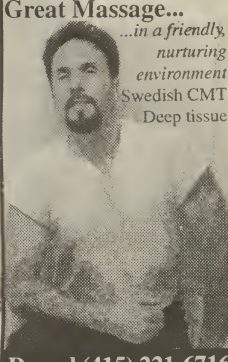


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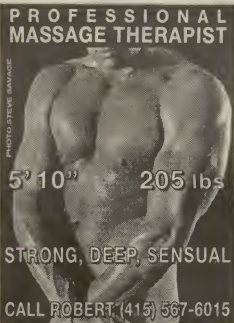
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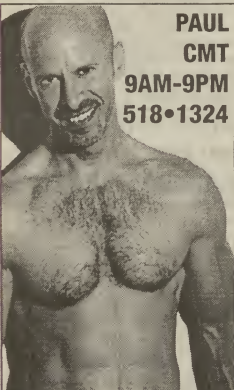
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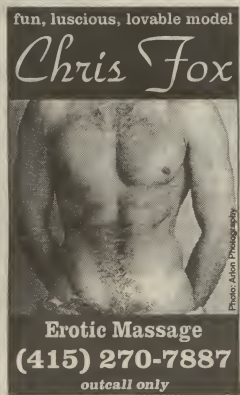
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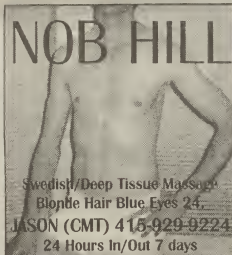


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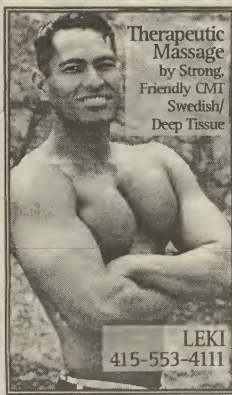
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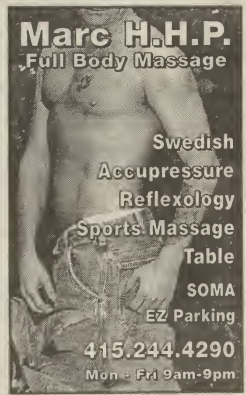
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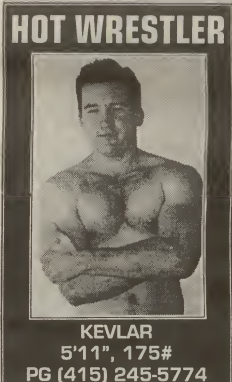
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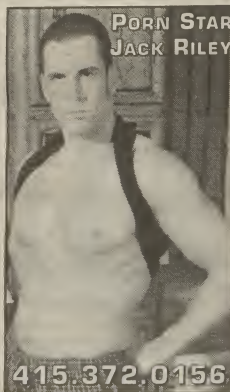
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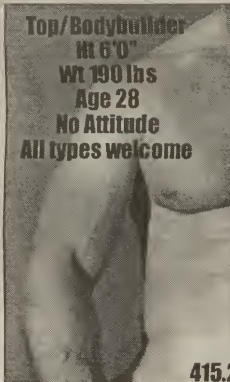
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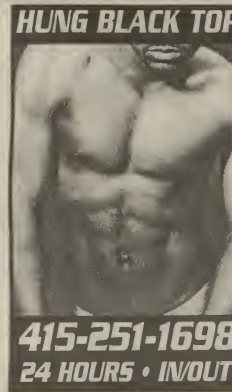
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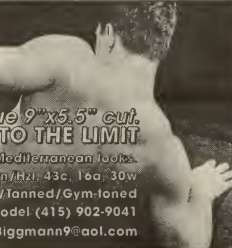


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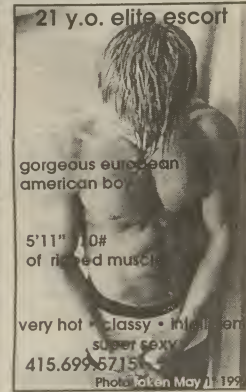
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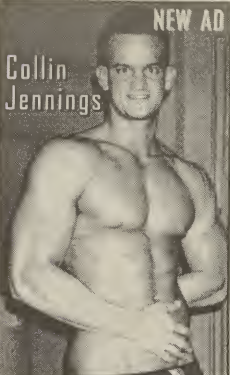
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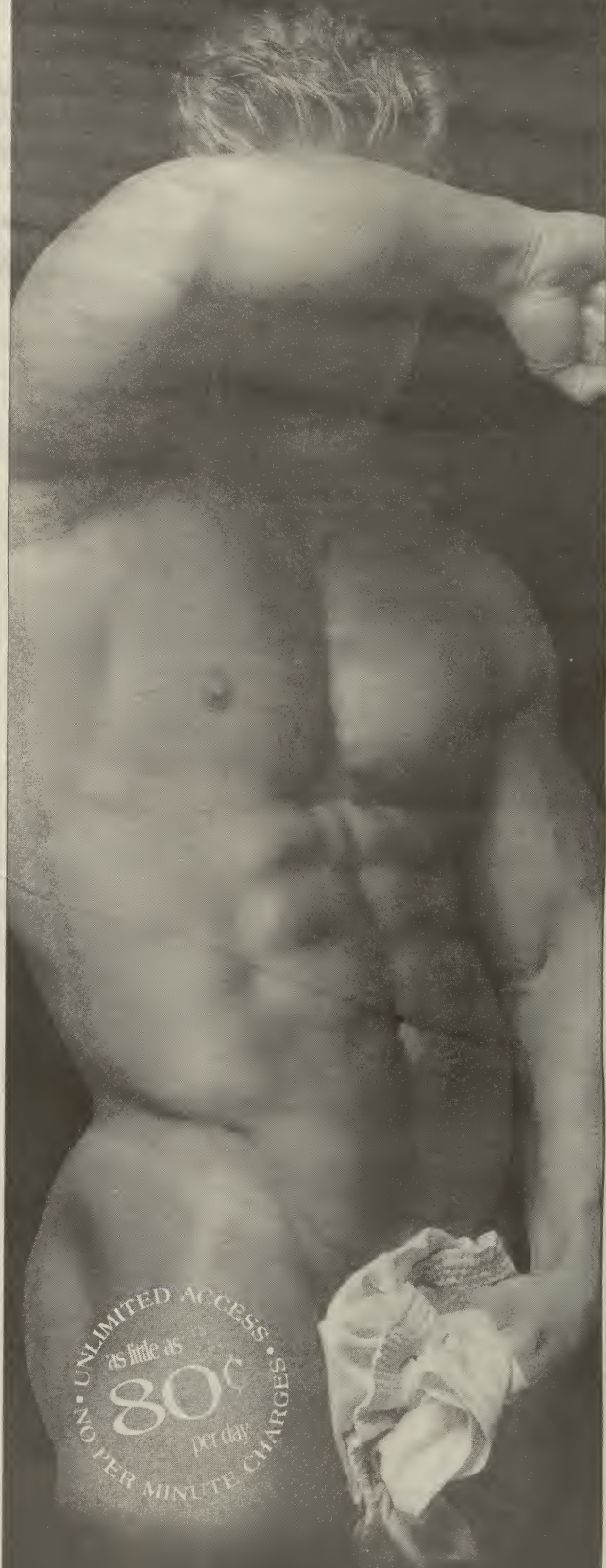
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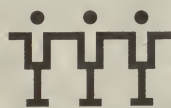
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